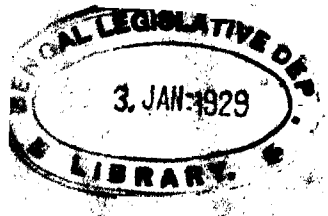
Council Proceedings

Official Report

Bengal Legislative Council

Twenty-Eighth Session, 1928

7th, 9th and 10th February, 1928



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GOVERNMENT OF BENGAL.

GOVERNOR OF BENGAL.

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2. Land Acquisition.
3. Excluded Areas.
4. Jails.
5. Legislative.

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2. Immigration.
3. Jurisdiction.
4. Haj Pilgrimage.
5. Forests.
6. Irrigation.

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2. Political, excluding Haj Pilgrimage.
3. Police.
4. Ecclesiastical.
5. Regulation of medical and other professional qualifications and standards, subject to legislation by the Indian Legislature.
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2. Separate Revenue.
3. Commerce and Industrial subjects.
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MINISTERS.

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2. Agriculture and Industries (excluding Excise).
3. Public Works.

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur, in charge of the following portfolios:—

1. Education (excluding European Education).
2. Excise.
3. Registration.

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The Hon'ble Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI, of Santosh.

DEPUTY PRESIDENT.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED, B.L.

Panel of Chairmen for the Twenty-eighth Session.

1. Maharaja SHASHI KANTA ACHARJYA CHAUDHURI, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh.
2. Dr. Sir DEVA PROSAD SARBADHIKARI, Kt., C.I.E., C.B.E.
3. Mr. W. L. TRAVERS, C.I.E., O.B.E.
4. Mr. M. ASHRAF ALI KHAN CHAUDHURI.

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Assistant Secretaries to the Council—A. M. HUTCHISON and **K. N.** MAJUMDAR.

Registrar to the Council—J. W. MCKAY.

BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL.

ALPHABETICAL LIST OF MEMBERS.

A

Acharjya Chaudhuri, Maharaja Shashi Kanta, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh. (Dacca University.)
Afzal, Maulvi Syed Mahamud. [Bakarganj West (Muhammadan).]
Ahamad, Mauvi Asimuddin. [Tippera South (Muhammadan).]
Ahamad, Maulvi Kasiruddin. [Rangpur West (Muhammadan).]
*Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin. [Rajshahi South (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Maulvi Syed Nausher. [Jessore South (Muhammadan).]
Ali, Mr. Altaf. [Bogra (Muhammadan).]
Atiqullah, Mr. Syed Muhammad. [Mymensingh East (Muhammadan).]

B

Bagchi, Babu Romes Chandra. [Malda (Non-Muhammadan).]
Baksh, Maulvi Kader, B.L. [Dinajpur (Muhammadan).]
Banerjea, Dr. Pramathanath. [Calcutta East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Banerjee, Babu Promotha Nath [Midnapore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Banerjee, Mr. A. C. [Calcutta South Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
Bannerjee, Babu Jitendralal. [Birbhum (Non-Muhammadan).]
Barton, Mr. J. F. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Basu, Babu Sasi Sekhar. [24-Parganas Rural South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Basu, Mr. P. C. [Burdwan South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Basu, Mr. Sarat C. [Burdwan North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Biswas, Babu Surendra Nath. [Faridpur South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Bose, Babu Bejoy Krishna. [Calcutta South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Bose, Mr. S. C. (Calcutta University.)
Bose, Mr. Subhas Chandra. [Calcutta North (Non-Muhammadan).]

C

Cassells, Mr. A. (Nominated Official.)
Chakravarti, Babu Jogindra Chandra. [Dinajpur (Non-Muhammadan).]

---

* Deputy President, Bengal Legislative Council.

Chakravarti, Mr. Byomkes. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
Chakraburtty, Babu Jatindra Nath. [Rangpur East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chatterjee, Srijut Bijay Kumar. [Bankura West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, Rai Harendranath. [24-Parganas Rural North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur, C.I.E., of Dhanbari. (Member, Executive Council.)
Choudhury, Maulvi Gholam Mawla. [Faridpur South (Muhammadan).]
Choudhury, Maulvi Khorshed Alam. [Bakarganj North (Muhammadan).]
Cohen, Mr. D. J. (Nominated Non-official.)
Cooper, Mr. C. G. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)

D

Das Gupta, Dr. J. M. [Calcutta Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
Datta, Babu Akhil Chandra. [Tippera (Non-Muhammadan).]
Datta, Babu Amulya Chandra. [Hooghly Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]
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Dowding Mr. T. W. (Indian Mining Association.)
Drummond, Mr. J. G. (Nominated Official.)
Dutt, Babu Saral Kumar. [Bakarganj North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Dutt, Mr. G. S. (Nominated Official.)

E

Eddis, Mr. A. McD. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)

F

Faroqui, Khan Bahadur K. G. M. [Tippera North (Muhammadan).]
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

G

Ganguly, Babu Khagendra Nath. [Howrah Municipal (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ghose, Babu Amarendra Nath. [Mymensingh West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ghose, Mr. M. C. (Nominated Official.)

Ghosh Maulik, Babu Satyendra Chandra. [Noakhali (Non-Muhammadan).]
Ghuznavi, Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu Ahmed Khan. [Mymensingh South-West (Muhammadan).]
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Gofran, Maulvi Abdul. [Noakhali West (Muhammadan).]
Guha, Mr. P. N. (Nominated Non-official.)
Gupta, Mr. Jogesh Chandra. [Dacca City (Non-Muhammadan).]

H

Habibulla, Nawab Khwaja. [Dacca City (Muhammadan).]
Haque, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul. [Nadia (Muhammadan).]
Himatsingka, Babu Prabhu Doyal. [Calcutta West (Non-Muhammadan).]
Hoque, Kazi Emdadul. [Rangpur East (Muhammadan).]
Hosain, the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruf, Khan Bahadur. (Minister.) [Malda *cum* Jalpaiguri (Muhammadan).]
Husain, Maulvi Latafat. (Nominated Non-official.)
Husain, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed Maqbul. [Chittagong North (Muhammadan).]
Huq, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Ekramul. [Murshidabad (Muhammadan).]

I

Ismail, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Muhammad. [Mymensingh Central (Muhammadan).]

J

James, Mr. F. E., O.B.E. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

K

Karim, Maulvi Abdul. [Burdwan Division South (Muhammadan).]
Kasem, Maulvi Abul. [Burdwan Division North (Muhammadan.)]
Khan, Babu Debendra Lal. [Midnapore North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Khan Chaudhuri, Mr. M. Ashraf Ali. [Rajshahi North (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Khan Sahib Maulvi Muazzam Ali. [Pabna (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin. [Faridpur North (Muhammadan).]
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman. [Dacca East Rural (Muhammadan).]

L

Lahiri, Mr. Basanta Kumar. [Nadia (Non-Muhammadan).]
Laird, Mr. R. B. (Indian Jute Mills Association.)
Lala, Babu Saroda Kripa. (Chittagong Landholders.)
Lindsay, Mr. J. H. (Nominated Official.)

M

Macartney, Mr. J. G. [Dacca and Chittagong (European).]
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Maguire, Mr. L. T. (Anglo-Indian.)
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Moberly, the Hon'ble Mr. A. N., C.I.E. (Member, Executive Council).]
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Mukerjea, Srijut Taraknath. [Hooghly Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Mukerji, Mr. S. C. (Nominated Non-official.)

N

Nandy, Maharaj Kumar Sris Chandra. [Murshidabad (Non-Muhammadan).]
Nasker, Babu Hem Chandra. [24-Parganas Rural Central (Non-Muhammadan).]
Nasimuddin, Mr. Khwaja, C.I.E. [Bakarganj South (Muhammadan).]
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O

Oaten, Mr. E. F. (Nominated Official.)

P

Parrott, Mr. Percy. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Phelps, Mr. Trevor J. (Calcutta Trades Association.)
Poddar, Mr. Ananda Mohan. (Bengal Mahajan Sabha.)
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R., C.I.E. (Nominated Official.)

R

Rahim, Sir Abd-ur, K.C.S.I. [Calcutta North (Muhammadan).]
Rahman, Maulvi Azizur. [Mymensingh North-West (Muhammadan).]
Rahman, Maulvi Shamsur. [Khulna (Muhammadan).]
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Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur. [24-Parganas Rural (Muhammadan).]
Raikat, Mr. Prasanna Deb. [Jalpaiguri (Non-Muhammadan).]
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Ray, Babu Radha Gobinda. [Bankura East (Non-Muhammadan).]
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Ray, Dr. Kumud Sankar. [Faridpur North (Non-Muhammadan).]
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Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. K. C. (Nominated Non-official.)
*Ray Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble Raja Manmatha Nath, of Santosh. (Dacca Landholders.)
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Roy, Dr. Bidhan Chandra. [24-Parganas Municipal North (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh. (Nominated Non-official.)
Roy, Mr. D. N., Bar.-at-Law. [Jessore South (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy, Mr. Kiran Sankar. [Dacca Rural (Non-Muhammadan).]
Roy Choudhuri, Rai Bahadur Satyendra Nath. [Bakarganj South (Non-Muhammadan).]

S

Sachse, Mr. F. A. (Nominated Official.)
Sadeque, Maulvi Mohamed. [Noakhali East (Muhammadan).]
Sanyal, Babu Sachindra Narayan. [Rajshahi (Non-Muhammadan).]

* President of the Bengal Legislative Council.

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Sarker, Babu Naliniranjan. [Mymensingh East (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sarker, Rai Sahib Rebati Mohan. (Nominated Non-official.)
Sattar, Khan Sahib Abdus. [Chittagong South (Muhammadan).]
Sattar, Mr. Abdool Razak Hajee Abdool. [Hooghly *cum* Howrah Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Sen, Mr. Satish Chandra. (Bengal National Chamber of Commerce.)
Sen, Srijut Nagendra Nath. [Khulna (Non-Muhammadan).]
Sen Gupta, Mr. J. M. [Chittagong (Non-Muhammadan).]
Shah, Mr. Gholam Hossain. [24-Parganas Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Sinha, Raja Bahadur Bhupendra Narayan, of Nashipur. (Burdwan Landholders.)
Skinner, Mr. S. A. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Solaiman, Maulvi Muhammad. [Barrackpore Municipal (Muhammadan).]
Stuart-Williams, Mr. S. C. (Nominated Official.)
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S. [Calcutta South (Muhammadan).]

T

Tate, Major-General Godfrey, M.B., V.H.S., I.M.S. (Nominated Official.)
Thompson, Mr. W. H. (Bengal Chamber of Commerce.)
Travers, Mr. W. L., C.I.E., O.B.E. [Rajshahi (European).]

W

Wordsworth, Mr. W. C. [Presidency and Burdwan (European).]

THE BENGAL LEGISLATIVE COUNCIL PROCEEDINGS.

(Official Report of the Twenty-eighth Session.)

VOLUME XXVIII—No. 1.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Tuesday, the 7th February, 1928, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President (Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI, of Santosh), in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council and the two Hon'ble Ministers and 79 nominated and elected members.

AL LEGISLATIVE DEPT.
3. JAN 1929
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Oath or Affirmation.

The following members made an oath or affirmation of their allegiance to the Crown:—

Mr. W. H. NELSON.

Mr. T. W. DOWDING.

Mr. P. PARROTT.

Mr. J. G. MACARTNEY.

Panel of Chairmen.

Mr. PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Raja Manmatha Nath Ray Chaudhuri, of Santosh): In accordance with the provisions of Rule 3 of the Bengal Legislative Council Rules, 1920, I nominate the following members of the Council to form a panel of four Chairmen for the ensuing session:—

1. Maharaja SHASHI KANTA ACHARJYA CHAUDHURI of Muktagacha, Mymensingh.
2. Dr. Sir DEVA PROSAD SARBADHIKARI, KT., C.I.E., C.B.E.
3. Mr. W. L. TRAVERS, C.I.E., O.B.E.
4. Mr. M. ASHRAF ALI KHAN CHAUDHURI.

Unless otherwise arranged, the senior member among them present in the above order named will preside over the deliberations of this Council in my absence and in the absence of the Deputy President.

Supplementary questions.

Mr. PRESIDENT: At the last session of the Council a point of order was raised about the treatment of supplementary questions in regard to which the members of Government, not being prepared with immediate replies, ask for notice. I promised to go through the matter. I find that the practice hitherto followed is described in the note to Standing Order 19 (section 35 of the Manual). I have carefully gone into the question and have studied the papers from which the present practice originated.

The note to section 35, although it worked smoothly under the old constitution, has become practically unworkable in the present enlarged Council. The principal difficulties are—

(*1*) supplementary questions are now very numerous;

(*2*) reporters are not always ready with their transcripts in time, particularly so in the shorter sessions;

(*3*) it is not always possible to find members in order to read over to them the question as transcribed by the reporters, or for the members to find the reporters; and

(*4*) where the session is over within 15 days the member of Government can do nothing until he knows that the questioner intends under section 19 to press for an answer next session.

In order to safeguard the privilege of asking supplementary questions as conferred on the members by rule 10 (section 34 of the Manual), I have decided to discontinue the practice described in the note and the Secretary will take steps to have the note deleted from the Manual.

Whenever a notice is demanded, although it will ordinarily mean fifteen days' notice, I shall be willing to admit supplementary question at short notice on receiving a copy of the supplementary question from the member but the House is aware of my limitations, *i.e.*, I have to do so with the consent of the Member of Government concerned.

In the previous session I gave my definite ruling that " subsequent meeting " in section 35 means a meeting within the session. In my opinion, supplementary questions of which notice has been demanded will lose much of their importance if they are not admitted at short notice under section 24. Section 35 supports this view by the words " in which case the supplementary question shall be treated as a fresh question *to be answered at a subsequent meeting of the Council.*" The words " to be answered at a subsequent meeting " have, in my opinion, been used solely to encourage the speedy disposal of such question otherwise these words are quite unnecessary in the standing order.

I rule that in future when there are meetings within the session supplementary questions of which a member supplies a copy will be treated as fresh questions for the same session and if they are not objectionable under the rules will be forwarded with the least possible delay to the Administrative Department concerned with the recommendation for the consent of the member in charge to answer at short notice within the session. If the members do not get their replies before the session ends section 19 will come into operation and the member concerned will have to intimate to the Secretary his desire to have replies at the subsequent session. The members will be able to glean from the official report supplied to each member what supplementary questions he asked at the previous session and he will therefore be in a position to intimate to the Secretary 15 days before the commencement of the next session his desire to proceed with his question.

I shall carefully watch how the practice works and I shall be very glad to effect improvements if and when any difficulty arises.

Point of order.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: On a point of order, Sir; in accordance with your decision, the usual practice in this Council appears to be that when notice of a question is given, it appears on the question

paper but time does not allow that question to be reached; if a member wants to put a supplementary question with reference to that particular question, would it be treated as a fresh question or a supplementary question? Last session notices of certain questions were given and answers were no doubt found in the book supplied to us, but as they were starred questions, they had to be answered orally according to the practice of this House; but as they were not answered orally, we were under the impression that these questions would be carried over to this session, but we are now told that although those questions were neither put nor answered formally, they had to be.....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Would you put your point of order more concisely? What is your grievance, what relief do you want?

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: When notice of a question is given and under your orders the question is not separately put but the question is published along with the answer, and although this is an anomaly, it is the practice of the House, it is a waste of time to ask the Hon'ble Members and Ministers.....

Mr. PRESIDENT: Without confining yourself to what has happened, will you kindly let me know what grievance you have with regard to the statement just now made?

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: I submit, if I put a question I should be given an opportunity of putting a supplementary question to the answer given, and if that opportunity is denied to me.....

Mr. PRESIDENT: That question does not arise. You are not denied the privilege of putting supplementary questions, but if you put a supplementary question and do not get the answer offhand, because the Hon'ble Member in charge has asked for notice, then I will be prepared to admit that question at short notice, though I would have to obtain the consent of the Hon'ble Member in charge before I do so.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: That is quite clear, but what I want to say is that when I have no opportunity of putting a supplementary question.....

Mr. PRESIDENT: You have not made out any case. You will certainly have opportunity to put supplementary questions.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Recruitment of Muhammadans to the Subordinate Police Service.

*1. **Maulvi ABDUL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state why the Subordinate Police Service was not included in the *communiqué* of the 21st December, 1925, in which it was announced that Government had decided to reserve the right to appoint Muhammadans to 46 per cent. of the vacancies in the Bengal Services?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that not even 12 per cent. of the subordinate police officers in the province are Muhammadans?

(*c*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of applying the principle laid down in the *communiqué* referred to above also in the case of appointment to the Subordinate Police Service?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): (*a*) The *communiqué* embodied a decision as to the proportion of Muhammadans to be appointed in respect of three services only regarding which a decision had been reached and stated that the method of recruitment to other services was under examination.

(*b*) No. With regard to the Bengal Police a reference is invited to paragraph 8 of the Police Administration Report for 1926. With regard to the Calcutta Police the proportion of Muhammadans among subordinate officers was about 22 per cent. on 31st December, 1925, the latest date up to which statistics have been compiled.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Acceptance of office as Chairman of district boards by Government pleaders and public prosecutors.

*2. **Maulvi ABDUL KARIM:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a circular was issued on the 5th June, 1927, laying down that Government pleaders and public prosecutors should not be candidates for Chairmanship of district boards without the approval of the District Magistrate, and that approval of their election will not be accorded by Government except in special circumstances of which Government is to be the sole judge?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the said circular?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Government of Bengal in accordance with the ruling of the Government of India and the Secretary of State, in their letter Nos. 565/69 T.—L.S.-G., dated the 8th October, 1920, in supersession of the Bengal Government's letter of the 9th April, 1920, held that Government pleaders and public prosecutors were non-officials in connection with the election of non-official Chairmen by district boards?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be also pleased to lay on the table a copy of the above-mentioned letter?

(*e*) Is it now the intention of the Government to treat Government pleaders and public prosecutors as officials with respect to their serving on district boards as Chairmen?

(*f*) If so, have they obtained the authority of the Government of India to that effect?

(*g*) Are there any special reasons for departing from the policy laid down by the Government in October, 1920?

(*h*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state those reasons?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): (*a*) and (*b*) A copy of the Circular Nos. 2151/55 L.S.-G., of 6th June, 1927, is laid on the table.

(*c*) and (*d*) A copy of the Circular Nos. 565/69 T.—L.S.-G., dated the 8th October, 1920, is laid on the table.

(*e*) The present policy of Government is described in Circular Nos. 290/94 T.—L.S.-G., of 12th October, 1927, a copy of which is laid on the table.

(*f*) No such authority is required. The decision conveyed in the circular of 8th October, 1920, was taken in response to a suggestion, not an order of the Government of India. The local Government's power to approve or disapprove of the election of a particular class or individual to the Chairmanship of a district board is unfettered.

(*g*) and (*h*) Government consider that in a normal district it may not always be easy to do justice at once to the work of Government pleader or public prosecutor and to the work of Chairman of the district board. Government, therefore, have decided that it may not in all cases be in the public interest to allow Government pleaders and public prosecutors to become candidates for the post of Chairman.

Circular referred to in the reply to clauses (a) and (b) of starred question No. 2.

Nos. 2151/55 L.S.-G., dated Calcutta, the 6th June, 1927.

From—A. J. DASH, ESQ., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Local Self-Government Department (Offg.),

To—All Commissioners of Divisions.

Minister-in-charge: Hon'ble Hadji Mr. A. K. Abu Ahmed Khan Ghuznavi.

I am directed to inform you that the attitude of Government towards the acceptance of office as Chairman of a district board by a Government servant, who is elected Chairman, is not fully understood and it appears desirable to state clearly the policy of Government in this matter.

2. There is no legal bar preventing any member of a district board, including a Government servant, from being elected Chairman, but Government have, under section 22 of the Local Self-Government Act, the power to withhold approval should the members make an unsuitable choice.

3. The Governor, acting with the Minister for Local Self-Government, wishes to make it clear that, should an official be elected Chairman of a district board, ordinarily, approval to such an election will not be granted. As, however, it is not desirable to fetter absolutely the choice of district boards, approval may be accorded when the circumstances are exceptional, *e.g.*, when the members of a district board are practically unanimous and when the official is particularly well-fitted for the post and is able to do full justice to it without detriment to his official duties.

In addition it should be noted that no Government servant should become a candidate for election as Chairman of a district board without obtaining the approval of his immediate official superior.

4. It has been decided also that the eligibility of Government pleaders and public prosecutors shall be subject to the same conditions.

Government pleaders and public prosecutors were, in Local Self-Government letter Nos. 1141/45, dated the 9th April, 1920, classed as officials whose election would not be approved by Government. Subsequently in letter Nos. 565/69 T., dated the 8th October, 1920, they were classed as non-officials and their election as Chairmen approved. In future, however, the policy laid down in paragraph 3 above will be followed in regard to public prosecutors and Government pleaders. Their election will not ordinarily be approved except in the special circumstances set forth and they should not become candidates without obtaining the approval of the District Magistrate or Collector.

Circular referred to in the reply to clauses (c) and (d) of starred question No. 2.

Nos. 565/69 T—L.S.-G., dated Darjeeling, the 8th October, 1920.

From—THE HON'BLE MR. L. S. S. O'MALLEY, C.I.E., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Municipal Department,

To—All Commissioners of Divisions.

I am directed to refer to Government order Nos. 1141/45 L.S.-G., dated the 9th April, 1920, regarding the election of non-official Chairmen of district boards. Government pleaders and public prosecutors being then held to come within the category of officials, it was stated that Government would not approve their election as Chairmen.

2. The Government of India, with the sanction of the Secretary of State, have recently issued a rule to the effect that the holder of any office in the civil or military service of the Crown, if the office is one which does not involve both of the following incidents, *viz.*, that the incumbent—

(*a*) is a whole-time servant of Government; and

(*b*) is remunerated either by salary or fees,

shall not be treated as an official for any of the purposes of Government of India Act. I am to request that the district boards in your division may be informed that the Governor in Council has decided to adopt this definition in connection with the election of non-official Chairmen by district boards.

Circular referred to in the reply to clause (e) of starred question No. 2.

Nos. 290/94 T.—L.S.-G., dated Darjeeling, the 12th October, 1927.

From—J. G. DRUMMOND, ESQ., I.C.S., Secretary to the Government of Bengal, Local Self-Government Department,

To—All Commissioners of Divisions.

I am directed to invite a reference to Mr. Dash's Circular Nos. 2151/55 L. S.-G., dated 6th June, 1927, explaining the attitude of Government towards the acceptance of office as Chairman of a district board by a Government servant. In paragraph 4 of that letter it was stated that the eligibility of Government pleaders and public prosecutors would be subject to the same conditions as that of whole-time salaried officials.

2. It has now been decided that so far as Government pleaders and public prosecutors are concerned, Government will not insist on the

condition that the members of the district board should be practically unanimous. Government are prepared to approve such elections even if the successful candidate for the Chairmanship has been elected by a bare majority only. Approval will, however, be withheld if the other conditions are not fulfilled, *i.e.*, if the gentleman in question is not particularly well-fitted for the post and is unable to do full justice to it without detriment to his official duties. A Government pleader or a public prosecutor will further have to obtain the approval of the Magistrate-Collector before becoming a candidate for the Chairmanship.

3. It is obvious that in this respect no distinction should be drawn between district boards and municipalities. I am, therefore, to add that the Circular Nos. 2151/55 L.S.-G., of 6th June, 1927, as modified in the present circular, states the attitude of Government towards the acceptance of office by a Government servant or by a Government pleader or public prosecutor who is elected Chairman of a municipality.

Pay and prospects of the Ministerial officers.

*3. **Maulvi SHAMSUR RAHMAN:** (*a*) With reference to the reply given on the 13th December, 1927, to starred question Nos. 4 and 5, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether the inquiries that were set on foot have since been finished?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why so much time is being taken for inquiries and consideration?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when the consideration of the matter is likely to be finished?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. A. Marr): (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) Decisions have been reached on certain of the points raised. The other points are still under consideration in the various departments of Government, and will be decided as early as possible.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state with regard to which points decisions have been reached and what those decisions are?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: I cannot possibly say without looking at the papers; this may require reference to different departments.

Reconstitution of local boards in Jessore.

*4. **Maulvi SHAMSUR-RAHMAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state when the last election of members to the different local boards in the district of Jessore took place?

(*b*) When were the names of the elected and nominated members published in the *Calcutta Gazette*?

(*c*) When did the elections of the Chairmen in the different local boards take place?

(*d*) Have the Government accorded their approval to the elections of the Chairmen as yet? If so, when?

(*e*) If the answer to (*d*) is in the negative, what are the reasons for the delay?

(*f*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that much inconvenience is being felt on account of this delay?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) In December, 1926. The election from Manirampur thana in the Sadar subdivision was set aside by the District Magistrate and a fresh election held subsequently.

(*b*) On the 22nd September, 1927.

(*c*) On the 20th October, 1927.

(*d*) The Commissioner of the Presidency Division approved the elections on 20th December, 1927.

(*e*) and (*f*) Does not arise.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: The elections were held in December, 1926. If the elections of a particular thana were set aside, what was the reason why the names of the members of the other local boards were not published duly in the *Gazette*?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: My information is that the district board must be reconstituted as a whole and the names published together.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: The elections were held in December, 1926, and the names were gazetted 10 months after, and no reason is given for the delay. Why were not the names of the members elected to the various local boards of the Jessore district published immediately after the election?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I have already answered that question.

Approval of election of Chairmen of local boards in Jessore.

*5. **Maulvi SYED ABDUR RAUF:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the reasons for the delay for over two months in the matter of approval of the elected Chairmen of the local boards in the district of Jessore?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: The Commissioner had to get a decision from Government on some legal points before he could approve of the elections.

Maulvi SYED ABDUR RAUF: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what were the legal points which the Government had to decide in connection with the approval of the Chairmen?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: The point so far as I can remember—I am afraid I must ask for fresh notice before I can give accurate information—is that the term of office of members of the local boards and the members of the district board did not coincide. Government had to ascertain whether there was any legal difficulty. If the member wants fuller information I must ask for notice of the question. I hope the member is satisfied with the answer I have given.

[The member nodded his satisfaction of the reply given.]

Waterworks project for Rajshahi town.

*6. **Babu SACHINDRA NARAYAN SANYAL:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that there has been acute distress on account of water scarcity in Rajshahi?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, are being taken for the installation of a waterworks plant in Rajshahi town?

(*c*) Is it a fact that donations are being collected for this purpose?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of allotting any grant in the next budget and of beginning the work during the current year?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) Government are aware that there is lack of good drinking water in Rajshahi.

(*b*) A sketch project for the installation of waterworks has been received and is now under consideration.

(*c*) Yes. Rs. 2,40,000 will be met from local subscriptions—a contribution of Rs. 1,00,000 being expected from the Maharani of Puthia.

(*d*) As the project has not yet received the administrative approval of Government, no provision for a grant can be made in the next year's budget. No work can be started before the detailed scheme (which will be prepared and submitted after the sketch project has been administratively approved) is sanctioned by Government.

Babu Abala Kanta Roy of the Bengal Government Press.

*7. **Maulvi LATAFAT HUSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that rule 10 on page 8 of the Printing Manual lays down that if any employee is charged before any of the Criminal Courts, he shall be placed under suspension until the decision of the Court is made known and that if a conviction is obtained the accused shall be dismissed?

(*b*) Is it a fact that Babu Abala Kanta Roy, officiating Sectionholder of Section 3, of the Bengal Government Press, was charged and convicted under section 323, Indian Penal Code, before the Sub-Deputy Magistrate of Alipore on the 21st July, 1924?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state how the said Babu Abala Kanta Roy came to occupy the situation he is now holding in the Bengal Government Press?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) Rule 10 of the Rules for the Management of the Printing Department relates only to criminal charges on account of dishonesty. The question therefore does not arise.

Allegations made against certain officers of the Bengal Government Press.

*8. **Maulvi LATAFAT HUSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether he is in possession of the resolutions passed in the two successive meetings held on the 22nd and the 24th December, 1927, at Kalighat and at the

Press Employees' Association office, respectively, in which serious allegations were made against Mr. Norton, the Superintendent, Mr. Davies, a Deputy Superintendent, and Mr. Anthony, Overseer of the Press, Machine and Binding Department?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a copy of those resolutions?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any action has been or is being taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: (*a*) Copies of these resolutions were received by Government.

(*b*) Government cannot comply with the request.

(*c*) Government are prepared to consider any legitimate grievance of their employees which are brought to their notice through the proper channel in the ordinary way, but cannot undertake to deal with resolutions or grievances which are brought to their notice in this manner.

Allegations made against a Deputy Superintendent of the Bengal Government Press.

*9. **Maulvi LATAFAT HUSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the employees of the Bengal Government Press submitted a joint petition to him and the Superintendent as well in which they made serious allegations against the Deputy Superintendent Mr. Davies for treating the workers, who are all Muhammadans, most rudely and abused them most filthily calling them "Pigs," "Sons of Pigs," etc.?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what action, if any, the Government have taken or intend to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: (*a*) A petition in general terms was submitted to the Superintendent and a copy was brought to the notice of Government.

(*b*) The Honorary Secretary of the Press Employees Association, who made inquiries on the subject, was informed by Government that the Superintendent would be in a position to deal with the facts of specific cases, when any member of the staff brought a grievance to his notice in the usual way. The Superintendent had previously given similar intimation to his staff.

Facilities for "Jumma" prayers by suspending civil court business on Fridays.

*16. **Khan Bahadur Maulvi SYED MAQBUL HUSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether any Government order has been issued to the civil courts of Bengal to suspend all business in courts on Fridays from 12-30 P.M. to 2 P.M. so that Muhammadan officers and litigants may perform their *Jumma* prayers without any let or hindrance?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether such order has been given effect to in Chittagong?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): (*a*) No.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if the assurances given by Government in this Legislative Council in 1917 that orders would be issued to suspend business to enable Muhammadan litigants, pleaders and witnesses to say their *Jumma* prayers, have been rescinded?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: I was not in this Council in 1917, but to the best of my belief Government never gave any such assurance with regard to the civil courts.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi SYED MAQBUL HUSAIN: Is the Hon'ble Member aware that during the Sessions trials such suspension is not made?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: Sessions trials do not take place in civil courts.

Mr. SYED MD. ATIQULLAH: Have any such orders been issued to the criminal courts in the mufassal?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: Yes.

A MEMBER: Will the Government consider the desirability of issuing similar orders stopping the work of civil courts?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Order, order. I disallow that question.

Unstarred Questions.

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Collection of cesses in Rangpur.

1. **Maulvi KASIRUDDIN AHAMAD:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing, in regard to the district of Rangpur,—

(*i*) the total amount of cess that has been levied in the present cess revaluation of the district;

(*ii*) the amount of cess that was levied before such revaluation;

(*iii*) the amount of annual average cess collection for the last five years ending in 1926-27; and

(*iv*) the amount spent annually in the collection of the cess during the above period?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (LAND REVENUE) (the Hon'ble Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur of Nadia): (*i*) Rs. 5,24,305.

(*ii*) Rs. 4,01,626.

(*iii*) Rs. 4,05,842 (including arrears).

(*iv*) 1922-23—Rs. 6,747, 1923-24—Rs. 6,541, 1924-25—Rs. 7,383, 1925-26—Rs. 5,985, and 1926-27—Rs. 4,938.

Civil suits in Rangpur.

2. **Maulvi KASIRUDDIN AHAMAD:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the number of suits instituted in April last in the several Civil Courts of the Rangpur district;

(*ii*) the number of such suits disposed of—

(*a*) *ex-parte*,

(*b*) contested, court by court; and

(*iii*) the average number of all suits disposed of by the several Civil Courts of the district per month, court by court, from January to October last year?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the reply to unstarred question No. 2.

(*i*) 17,732.

(*ii*) (*a*) 12,397.

(*ii*) (*b*) District Judge—nil, Subordinate Judge, Rangpur—3, Munsif, 1st Court, Rangpur—46, Munsif, 2nd Court, Rangpur—57, Munsif, 1st Court, Nilphamari—46, Munsif, 2nd Court, Nilphamari—37, Munsif, 1st Court, Gaibandha—14, Munsif, 2nd Court, Gaibandha—105, Munsif, 1st Court, Kurigram—23, Munsif, 2nd Court, Kurigram—60.

(*iii*) District Judge—2, Subordinate Judge, Rangpur—34, Munsif, 1st Court, Rangpur—390, Munsif, 2nd Court, Rangpur—324, Munsif, 1st Court, Nilphamari—209, Munsif, 2nd Court, Nilphamari—343, Munsif, 1st Court, Gaibandha—425, Munsif, 2nd Court, Gaibandha—303, Munsif, 1st Court, Kurigram—403, Munsif, 2nd Court, Kurigram—398.

Pensioners re-employed.

3. Babu SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether a Government servant can draw both a pay and a pension?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the names of the officers of Bengal who are at present drawing both a pay and a pension, and

(*ii*) the amounts drawn by them as such?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: (*a*) The rules regulating the re-employment of pensioners are contained in Chapter XXI of the Civil Service Regulations.

(*b*) A statement furnishing the information in regard to the civil pensioners re-employed at present under the Government of Bengal is laid on the table.

A list referred to in the reply to clause (b) of unstarred question No. 3 of the pensioners re-employed at present under Government of Bengal.

Serial No.	Names of pensioners.	Designation before retirement.	Office in which re-employed.	Amount of monthly pension.	Amount of pay on re-employment.
				Rs. a.	Rs.
1	Mr. D. Swinhoe ..	Chief Presidency Magistrate.	Coroner of Calcutta ..	383 5	300
2	Mr. T. Boyles ..	Assistant Commissioner of Police, Calcutta.	Caretaker, Writers' Buildings.	210 9	200
3	Mr. L. Jackson ..	Inspector of Calcutta Police.	House of Detention, Calcutta.	136 4	160
4	Mr. H. Crabb ..	Proof Reader, Bengal Government Press.	Bengal Government Press	76 8	110
5	Mr. Dwijendranath Singhaw.	Shorthand Instructor, Police Training College, Hazaribagh.	Political Department, Government of Bengal.	95 13	250
6	Babu Abhoy Charan Sarkar.	Sarkar in charge of Fe-bruage Godown, Royal Botanic Garden.	Royal Botanic Garden	6 0	15
7	Mr. C. A. Rodrigues	Clerk, G. I., Army Department.	Deputy Commissioner of Police, Calcutta.	144 11	125
8	Mr. J. W. Holme ..	Professor, Presidency College, I.E.S.	Part-time Professor, Islamia College.	193 10	300
9	Babu Surendranath Banerji.	Gymnastic Master, Krishnagar College.	Assistant Superintendent, Krishnagar College Hostel.	54 6	20
10	Babu Raghunath Bhattacherje.	Muharrir, 3rd Sub-Judge's Court, Hooghly.	District Judge's Court, Hooghly.	29 12	35
11	Babu Rama Prasad Basak.	Clerk, Inspector of Schools, Dacca.	Inspectress of Schools, Dacca.	35 5	25

Santhia-Berhampore-Bhairamara Railway project.

4. Maharaj Kumar SRIS CHANDRA NANDY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Public Works (Railways) be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to move the Government of India to start at an early date the works of the proposed Santhia-Berhampore-Bhairamara Railway?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the works, if started, will afford some relief to the people of the Murshidabad district, who are suffering much for the failure of crops?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (RAILWAYS) (the Hon'ble Mr. A. Marr): (*a*) and (*b*) The engineering and traffic surveys of the line have been completed. If the report satisfies the Government of India that the line will be remunerative,

its construction will be sanctioned; if the line is not to be remunerative, it would be useless for the local Government to recommend its construction.

Maharaj Kumar SRIS CHANDRA NANDY: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when the report is likely to be ready?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: I cannot possibly say. That is a matter for the Railway Board.

Assault on a Deputy Magistrate at Patuakhali.

5. Maulvi SHAMSUR-RAHMAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to lay on the table a statement regarding the assault that was made on a Mussalman Deputy Magistrate at Patuakhali?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Deputy Superintendent of Police was standing in front of his house with orderly constables just opposite to the place of occurrence?

(*c*) What action, if any, did the said Deputy Superintendent of Police take for the prevention of the assault or for the apprehension of the assailants?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the assailants, immediately after the assault, entered the dispensary of a local doctor just opposite to the house of the Deputy Superintendent of Police?

(*e*) Have the assailants been traced out so far?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) The answer is in the negative.

(*c*) The question does not arise.

(*d*) One of the assailants did take refuge in the dispensary of a local doctor just opposite to the house of the Deputy Superintendent of Police.

(*e*) The answer is in the negative.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of unstarred question No. 5.

On the 12th September, 1927, at about 6-35 P.M. Maulvi Abdul Halim Choudhury, Second Deputy Magistrate at Patuakhali, who was under orders of transfer, was returning to his house from his office

accompanied by an office servant and a constable. In front of the gate of the bungalow of the Deputy Superintendent of Police a man approached from behind and struck the Maulvi twice with a ruler, once on the head and once on the back. The Maulvi saw his assailant and his four confederates running away, but he was unable to recognise any of them.

The Maulvi lodged a complaint at the thana and this complaint was investigated by selected police officers under the supervision of the Superintendent of Police. Ultimately Inspector Abdus Sobhan was specially drafted from the Bhola subdivision to investigate this case. Several suspects were arrested, but neither the Maulvi nor the men accompanying him could identify any of them as an assailant. Consequently a final report was submitted as true under sections 147/307, Indian Penal Code.

Audit fees from the Co-operative Societies.

6. Maulvi SHAMSUR-RAHMAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state what is the amount of audit fees realised from the co-operative societies in Bengal in the year 1926-27?

(*b*) What has been the expenditure of the Government under that head?

(*c*) How do the Government intend to use the surplus, if any?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): (*a*) Rs. 1,83,803.

(*b*) The total expenditure on the audit staff in 1926-27 was Rs. 1,41,612.

(*c*) A scheme for the utilisation of the balance is being formulated by the Registrar of Co-operative Societies, Bengal.

Cremation of the dead body of a Muhammadan boy.

7. Babu SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the dead body of a Muhammadan boy aged 4 years, named Wajid Ali, was viewed by the Coroner of Calcutta sometime about the 26th July, 1927?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the dead body was cremated at the Kasi Mitter Burning Ghât for Hindus by the employees of the State?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why the Government employees cremated the dead body of a Muhammadan in a Hindu burning ghát?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what steps, if any, have been taken to punish the officials concerned, and to prevent a repetition of such occurrences?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The body was that of an unclaimed Muhammadan boy. It was taken away by mistake with some unclaimed Hindu bodies by the carter attached to the morgue and was burnt.

(*d*) The Morgue Supervisor, who is in charge of the disposal of the bodies, has been warned and instructed to see personally to the loading of the bodies in the morgue cart in order to prevent a repetition of such an occurrence in future. As this officer has been holding the post for thirteen years and there has not been any other occasion on which such a mistake has taken place, the warning in this instance is considered sufficient by way of punishment.

Compositors of the Bengal Government Printing Press.

8. Maulvi LATAFAT HUSSAIN: Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in the Government of Bengal Printing Press while compositors putting in 3, 4 or 6 years' service have been made permanent, compositors serving for over 10 or 12 or 18 years with unblamable records are still working as temporary hands?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: Length of service is not the only qualification for promotion from the extra piece to the permanent piece establishment. In accordance with the rules on the subject, men are selected for promotion on account of their qualifications, regular attendance, general good conduct and length of service on the extra piece establishment.

Dust nuisance in Barrackpore Trunk Road.

9. Mr. T. J. PHELPS: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state how much of the four and half lakhs of rupees sanctioned by this Council in the budget of 1925 for repairs to the Barrackpore Trunk Road has been spent?

(*b*) how much of this was absorbed on the tar-macadamised portion from the northern end of Titagar Bazar to the north-west entrance to the Barrackpore Park?

(*c*) Is it the intention of the Government to treat the whole road in the same way as the portion referred to in (*b*)?

(*d*) If so, by what date is the work likely to be completed?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the tar-macadamised portion is very narrow?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether bullock carts will be permitted to use the tar-macadamised portion?

(*g*) If the answer to (*f*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is intended that bullock carts and heavy traffic shall be provided with a separate track at each side?

(*h*) If the answer to (*g*) is in the affirmative, are the Government considering the desirability in the meantime of oiling the road to alleviate the present nuisance caused by dust?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): (a) The estimated cost sanctioned by the Council in 1926 was Rs. 4,59,000. The expenditure amounts to Rs. 1,43,555.

(*b*) Rs. 71,000.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) By 1929-30.

(*e*) It is 16 feet wide to allow two lines of traffic.

(*f*) Yes. There is no Act in existence under which such use can be forbidden.

(*g*) No.

(*h*) The question does not arise.

3-30 P.M.

LEGISLATIVE BUSINESS

Government Bills.

The Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1928.

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I beg leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Bengal Village Self-Government Act, 1919 (Bengal Act V of 1919).

The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I beg to move that the Bengal Village Self-Government (Amendment) Bill, 1928 be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon before the 15th March, 1928.

In doing so I shall like to say a few words about its provisions. This little Bill is intended to cure two defects in the Village Self-Government Act. Union boards, as every body knows, have limited incomes and few can afford to maintain a dispensary of their own. The idea, therefore occurred to Government, as it had occurred to other well-wishers of union boards also, that two or more boards might, by clubbing their resources, be able to maintain dispensaries jointly to serve the medical needs of the people living in the unions under their charge. Rules for the management of such dispensaries through joint committes were actually drafted when it was discovered that the Village Self-Government Act gave union boards no power to combine in order to manage dispensaries and similar institutions or to work through committees. This defect can only be remedied by legislation. The Bill enables union boards to unite in order to establish and maintain not only dispensaries but primary schools and infirmaries for the treatment of animals, on a joint basis and to set up committees for managing these institutions. Power is given to include outsiders in the Committees as it is desirable that those who subscribe liberally to dispensary or school funds should be eligible for a voice in the management of these institutions. Joint management tends to give rise to disputes, and there must be some outside authority armed with powers of control over the committees. The Bill, therefore, confers on district boards the same powers of control as they possess over the proceedings of union boards.

I now come to the reasons for giving union boards power to establish and maintain veterinary infirmaries as well as schools and dispensaries for human patients. Last year some union boards in the Faridpur district expressed a wish to combine in order to maintain veterinary dispensaries. Not only were they unable legally to combine for management of an institution, but it was doubtful if the Act gave them any power to incur expenditure on veterinary from the union fund at all. Hence the amendment of the Act is necessary to give them this power also.

As remarked in the Statement of Objects and Reasons the Bill is permissive only. No obligation is laid on union boards and no pressure will be brought to bear on them to take advantage of the changes made in the Act. The Bill, in fact, recognises that the representatives of the village people must be regarded as the best judges of the objects on which the money raised by local taxation will be spent. If they consider that the proper care of the villagers' cattle is of sufficient importance to justify expenditure from the union fund they will be at

liberty to incur such expenditure. It is considered desirable to pass this Bill in order to give enterprising union boards a wider field for their activities than is afforded to them by the trammels of the Act as it stands.

With these words I move that the Bill be circulated for opinion.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: Sir, I want to know whether, quite apart from the necessity of investing union boards with power to take veterinary work, they have not already got power in the present Code and the rules framed thereunder to jointly or singly, start dispensaries as they have been doing in some districts.

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: They have undoubtedly the power at the present moment to start dispensaries, but they have not the power to club their resources to start a joint dispensary. This Bill, which is an enabling Bill, gives them that power.

The motion of the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter was then put and agreed to.

The Bengal Medical (Amendment) Bill, 1928.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (MEDICAL RESERVED) the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): I beg leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Bengal Medical Act, 1914 (Bengal Act VI of 1914).

The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: I move that the said Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, Kt., C.I.E., Mr. J. G. Drummond, Major General Godfrey Tate, Raja Bhupendra Narayan Sinha Bahadur of Nashipur, Maulvi Abul Kasem, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul Haque, Mr. A. F. Rahman, and the mover, with instructions to submit their report by the next session of the Bengal Legislative Council, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a quorum shall be five.

Sir, in the notice of motion I had included two other names but I regret to say that the two gentlemen named have not consented to act in the Select Committee. I have therefore omitted their names in moving this motion.

I should like, Sir, to preface my remarks by saying that I owe Dr. Kumud Sankar Ray both thanks and an apology.

I am grateful to him for having drawn attention to the fact that the Council of Medical Registration is less representative than it should be in these days when the demand for medical education is increasing

and facilities are expanding. Had it not been for his action, things might have been left as they are for some time longer. I owe to him an apology because at the time when he first gave notice of his intention to introduce an amending Bill the necessity of referring it for the sanction of the Governor General was not fully discussed, and when it was found that a reference was necessary, final orders could not be obtained in time to enable him to introduce it in the December session.

I will now, Sir, with your permission, explain briefly why Government have considered it necessary to introduce a Bill of their own instead of seeking to amend Dr. Kumud Sankar Ray's Bill. There are two main reasons: The first is that in the opinion of Government Dr. Ray's Bill went too far in the direction of eliminating official control. He proposed to make Government service a disqualification for election from among certain classes of medical practitioners and to introduce an element which might not consist of medical men at all. The maintenance of medical qualifications and standards is a matter of serious importance to the general public and at a time when the demand for medical education is increasing, it is very necessary to guard against any tendency to relax these qualifications and standards. There is a possibility that pressure may be brought to bear with this object and it is, therefore, necessary that the body which deals with the question should have a fairly conservative outlook in that respect, though at the same time it should be as representative as possible of the medical profession. The difference between the two Bills in this respect is so fundamental that it was felt that to amend Dr. Ray's Bill in this sense would entirely alter its character. The second reason is that there were certain minor amendments in the Bengal Medical Act which have been found to be necessary but for which Dr. Ray's Bill did not provide. As it would have been necessary to introduce a separate Bill for this purpose, it was thought to be best to introduce a measure which would cover the whole ground.

The scope of the present Bill has been explained in the Statement of Objects and Reasons. As regards the constitution of the Council the salient features are the extension of the elective principle and the reduction of the number of Government nominees by four. The Council will become a larger body than before but no maximum or minimum number has been fixed. The amendment of section 10 is designed to ensure that the term of office of all members shall expire simultaneously and not on varying dates. The amendment to section 19 is intended to give the Council powers of inspection in order to enable them better to discharge their duties.

Mr. W. L. TRAVERS: I would just like to say a few words on this Bill. I think the Bill in itself is approved by the general body of medical men in our constituencies. The point that I wish to bring

before the Hon'ble Member is this: We have a standing committee of the House to deal with medical matters and I find that only one member of that Committee has been appointed to the Select Committee on this Bill. I would suggest that more use be made of the standing committees of the Council in future by the Hon'ble Member. When a Bill comes up on the subject connected with a standing committee's work, I think it is very advisable that the members of the standing committee of the Council should be on the Select Committee of the Bill.

The motion of the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly was then put and agreed to.

Adjournment.

At 3-50 P.M. the Council was adjourned till 3 P.M. on Thursday, the 9th February, 1928, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council assembled under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

The Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Thursday, the 9th February, 1928, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President (Raja MANMATHA NATH RAY CHAUDHURI, of Santosh), in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the two Hon'ble Ministers and 77 nominated and elected members.

Point of order.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: On a point of order, Sir, may I state for your consideration that when starred questions and answers are in the possession of the members of the Council about half an hour before the Council sits, it will save the time of the House if these questions are taken as read. No useful purpose is served by reading the questions and answers from the printed papers.

Mr. PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Raja Manmatha Nath Ray Chaudhuri, of Santosh): I understand that members, some of them, at least a very considerable number of them, attach much importance to the existing practice, and I do not see any reason to alter that practice.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Qualifications for the appointment in the Bengal Secretariat.

***11. Mr. A. C. BANERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether there are any academic or other qualifications fixed for the appointment in the Bengal Secretariat of—

(i) clerks; and

(ii) apprentices, paid or otherwise?

(b) If so, what are they?

(c) Is it a fact that ordinary matriculates are at times taken in as apprentices on the strength of private recommendations in preference to graduates?

(d) If so, what is the principle underlying such practice?

(e) How many clerks and apprentices are there in the different departments at present?

(f) How many of them are graduates?

(g) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether it is the intention of the Government to perpetuate the system of having non-graduates as apprentices by keeping them on in the service or to allow them to become members of the permanent clerical staff?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. A. Marr): (a) and (b) Permanent vacancies in the Bengal Secretariat are filled in accordance with the Rules for the Regulation of Appointments in the Clerical Service of the Secretariat of the Government of Bengal, a copy of which is placed on the Library table. There are no apprentices. Clerks are appointed on probation. Temporary vacancies are ordinarily filled from the list of candidates who have qualified at the clerkship examination.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) The number of clerks in each department of the Secretariat is to be found in the Civil Budget Estimate under the detailed account No. 22G—Civil Secretariat, a copy of which may be consulted in the Council Library.

(f) The information is not on record.

(g) It is not proposed to change the existing regulations.

Alleged dismissal of employees in Bengal Government Press.

*12. **Maulvi LATAFAT HUSSAIN:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that no Government employee can be dismissed without any reasonable ground and previous notice?

(b) Is it a fact that five machinemen, one compositor and one pressman of the Bengal Government Press have been recently dismissed without any reasonable ground being given and without previous notice?

(*c*) If the replies to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state how the authorities account for these dismissals and what action, if any, the Government intend to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: (*a*) No. The services of a temporary employee may be dispensed with without notice.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Printing and type-casting machines of the Bengal Government Press.

***13. Maulvi LATAFAT HUSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that ten printing machines and six type-casting machines are lying unused in the Bengal Government Press?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the date of purchase as well as the original price of each of these machines?

(*c*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why those machines have been purchased?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: (*a*) No. Five printing machines and three type-casting machines are temporarily not in use, because the amount of work at present does not require their use.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

Training of Indians in the Lino Department of the Bengal Government Press.

***14. Maulvi LATAFAT HUSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Anglo-Indians are taken on Rs. 45 per month as apprentices in the Lino Department of the Bengal Government Press and given the necessary training while Indians are debarred from this facility?

(*b*) If the reply to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: (*a*) No. Indians are not debarred from receiving necessary training.

(*b*) Does not arise.

An ink-man in the employ of the Bengal G[illegible] Press receiving injury while working.

15. **Maulvi LATAFAT HUSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that on the 28th December, 1927, an ink-man in the employ of the Bengal Government Press seriously injured his left fore-finger while manipulating a machine?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the authorities of the Press on the spot took no step towards giving the man any sort of aid?

(*c*) Is it a fact that he was left alone to make arrangement for being taken to the hospital for necessary medical aid?

(*d*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what action, if any, Government have taken or intend to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: (*a*) On the 28th December, an ink-man of the Bengal Government Press received a slight injury on a finger while working a machine.

(*b*) The overseer, when the ink-man reported the injury to him, dressed the injury with materials from the first-aid cabinet.

(*c*) The extent of the injury did not necessitate his being taken to hospital.

(*d*) No action on the part of Government is considered necessary.

Lewis Fund in the Bengal Government Press.

*16. **Maulvi LATAFAT HUSSAIN:** (*a*) With reference to the reply to clause (*a*) of starred question No. 72 of the 14th December last, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state how the said Committee has been formed, *i.e.*, whether the members have been elected or nominated?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing—

(*i*) the name of the members of the Committee with the designation of each;

(*ii*) the date of the last annual meeting; and

(*iii*) the report adopted at the last annual meeting?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: (*a*) and (*b*), (*i*), (*ii*) and (*iii*) The information is not available, as this is not a Government Fund.

Staff of the Bengal [illegible] Press.

***17. Maulvi LATAFAT HUSSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that it is always the piece-hands, *i.e.*, the workers, and not the salaried hands, *i.e.*, the clerical and supervising hands of the Bengal Government Press that have to go in case of a reduction?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the salaried hands consisting of clerks and the supervising staff are being gradually increased while the piece-hands, *i.e.*, the workers, are diminishing in number from day to day?

(*c*) If the answers to (*a*) and (*b*) are in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: (*a*) Reductions of staff are effected in the extra piece establishment when the amount of work requires them.

(*b*) The salaried staff is not being increased.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Number of Muhammadan students (female) in the Chittagong Khastagir's Government High English School for Girls.

***18. Khan Bahadur Maulvi SYED MAQBUL HUSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the number of Muhammadan students (female) now getting education in the Chittagong Khastagir's Government High English School for Girls?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of making provisions shortly for the teaching of Urdu, Persian and Arabic in that school?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruf Hosain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) A statement is laid on the table.

(*b*) As none of the Moslem girls have reached the stage of instruction (Class VII) at which the teaching of Arabic and Persian would naturally begin, there is at present no necessity to make provision for such teaching. In the lower forms Bengali is learnt, as it, and not Urdu, is the vernacular of the girls.

Statement referred to in the reply to clause (a) of starred question No. 18 showing the number of Muhammadan students (female) now getting education in the Chittagong Khastagir's Government High English School for Girls.

Name of class.		Number under instruction.
Class X	...	Nil.
Class IX	...	Nil.
Class VIII	...	Nil.
Class VII	...	Nil.
Class VI	...	Nil.
Class V	...	3
Class IV	...	2
Class III	...	6
Class II	...	9
Class IA	...	5
Class IB	...	4
Total	...	29

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to consider the desirability of making necessary arrangements for giving this instruction in the earlier stages of the girls' education?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Is not this a request for action, and not a request for information?

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: Are the Government contemplating any measures for giving facilities for this instruction to the girls of the lower standards?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: The matter will receive the consideration of Government in due course.

Hooghly Madrasah.

***19. Maulvi ABDUL KARIM:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the site on which the Hooghly Madrasah stands was purchased for the Madrasah by money drawn from the Mohsin Fund?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: The site and the buildings occupied by the Hooghly College and the Madrasah were purchased about the year 1837 out of the Mohsin Fund for a college which then comprised an English and an Oriental Department. The Oriental Department has since developed into a high madrasah.

Maulvi ABDUL KARIM: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state if it is in the contemplation of Government to remove the Madrasah from its present site?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I want notice of this.

Deputy or Sub-Deputy Magistrate at Gopalganj.

*20. **Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department aware that at present there is not a single Muhammadan Deputy Magistrate or Sub-Deputy Magistrate in charge of the trial of criminal cases at Gopalganj in the district of Faridpur?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether it was till lately the policy of the Government to place at least one Muhammadan officer at Gopalganj invested with 1st class powers?

(*c*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of placing at least one such officer at Gopalganj?

MEMBER in charge of JUDICIAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) Does not arise.

Basantapur station on the Rajbari-Faridpur line.

*21. **Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Public Works (Railways) aware of the hardship and inconvenience suffered by the public for want of—

(*a*) raised platforms and

(*b*) waiting sheds for female passengers,

at the Basantapur Station on the Rajbari-Faridpur line of the Eastern Bengal Railway?

...EMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (RAILWAYS) (the Hon'ble Mr. A. Marr): No. There is an Advisory Committee of the Railway to which the subject matter of these questions may be referred.

Eradication of the water-hyacinth pest.

*22. **Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of the Government to introduce legislation for the eradication of the water-hyacinth pest?

(*b*) If so, when will the same be introduced in the Council?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): (*a*) and (*b*) The question of the policy to be adopted in dealing with water-hyacinth is still under the consideration of Government.

Mr. P. N. GUHA: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state for how many years past this matter has been receiving the attention of Government?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: For many years, but so far as the present ministry is concerned, for a few weeks only, but I may tell the hon'ble member that the Minister has drawn up definite suggestions, and those suggestions are under the consideration of Government.

Failure of crops in the district of Murshidabad especially in the Kandi and Jangipur subdivisions.

*23. **Maharaj Kumar SRIS CHANDRA NANDY:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) aware of the failure of crops in the district of Murshidabad especially in the Kandi and Jangipur subdivisions?

(*b*) If so, what measures do the Government intend to adopt in order to give some relief to the people of the affected area?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether there is any possibility of adopting in this connection measures of permanent utility?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (LAND REVENUE) (the Hon'ble Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur, of Nadia): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Rs. 21,800 has been sanctioned for Agricultural and Land Improvement loans and Rs. 16,000 has already been placed at the disposal of the District Board for relief works. Since then another Rs. 4,000 has been added to, making the total Rs. 20,000.

(*c*) Government understand that the works undertaken by the District Board are of this nature.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if he has any information as to similar conditions prevailing in other parts of Bengal?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: Yes, in certain other areas.

Audit fees realised in the Co-operative Department.

*24. **Maulvi SHAMSUR-RAHMAN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the year 1926-27—

(*i*) the amount of audit fees realised in the Co-operative Department, and

(*ii*) the entire cost of Government for completing the audit?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to improve the pay and prospects of the officers of the department out of the surplus audit fee?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) The member is referred to the reply to his question No. 6 (unstarred) in this session.

(*b*) Audit fees are used for the purpose of paying auditors.

Number of senior and junior madrasahs in Bengal.

*25. **Maulvi SYED ABDUR RAUF:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state—

(*i*) the number of senior and junior madrasahs in Bengal; and

(*ii*) how many of them are aided?

(*b*) Has any provision been made in aiding those madrasahs which did not receive any aid during the last two years?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) (*i*) Number of senior and junior madrasahs in Bengal—538.

(*ii*) Number of such madrasahs as are aided—262.

(*b*) A recurring grant of Rs. 20,000 a year will be provided in the budget for 1928-29 for new and increased grants-in-aid to non-Government madrasahs.

Grants for the high English schools.

*28. **Maulvi SYED ABDUR RAUF:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state what are the amounts of the additional grants made during the last two years for high English schools?

(*b*) Is there any condition attached to the grants-in-aid for every high English school for the appointment of a certain number of Muhammadan teachers on the school staff?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the affirmative, how far has the rule been observed?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) Three lakhs in 1925-26 and one and half lakh in 1927-28 for secondary (high and middle) schools. No separate allotment was made for high schools only.

(*b*) No.

(*c*) As no condition to this effect were laid down, this does not arise.

Water-hyacinth in the rural areas of the Rajshahi district.

*27. **Babu SACHINDRA NARAYAN SANYAL:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries aware of the existence of water-hyacinth in the rural areas of the Rajshahi district, which is polluting the rural water-supply?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, are being taken to eradicate the water-hyacinth menace from the district?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The question of dealing with water-hyacinth as it affects the whole province and not merely the district of Rajshahi is under the consideration of Government.

Transfer of Sub-Registrars.

*28. **Maulvi KASIRUDDIN AHAMAD:** (*a*) With reference to the reply given to my starred question No. 69 on the 14th December, 1927, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education (Registration) be pleased to state whether the Government have made any inquiry as to why the Sub-Registrar, Babu Promotha Bhusan Mukherjee, has been at the same station for sixteen years from his first appointment in 1912?

(*b*) Under what principles are the sub-registrars ordinarily transferred from one station to the other?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of framing rules for the transfer of sub-registrars as is done in the case of other services?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (REGISTRATION) (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruf Hosain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) The member is referred to the answer to question No. 236 (*a*) (*ii*) asked by Maulvi Shah Abdur Rauf at the meeting of the Bengal Legislative Council held on the 13th July, 1921.

(*c*) No. Government consider the present practice suitable in the public interest.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to enlighten us as to what purpose of public interest will be served by keeping the same officer in the same post in the same place for 16 consecutive years?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: The power lies with the District Registrar to report on and it is in his discretion to transfer a man as he wishes. The District Registrar has reported that this gentleman's services are required there in the interests of the public good for another two months.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the officer in question is a zemindar of the locality?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: Yes.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Is not that an additional reason why he should be transferred from this particular post?

Mr. PRESIDENT: I cannot allow that question. If I remember aright, I disallowed that question on a former occasion.

Jail compounders.

*29. **Khan Bahadur Maulvi EMADUDDIN AHMED:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that in June, 1927, a memorial was submitted by the jail compounders to the Government praying for increase in their present monthly allowance and participation in the annual reward that is granted to Sub-Assistant Surgeons for good work?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the Government gave a reply stating that as there were no recommendations to that effect in the Jail Committee Report, the Government are not prepared to interfere?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Inspector-General of Prisons recommended to the Government in 1924 that their jail allowance should be raised and the annual reward be also given to them?

(*d*) If the answer to (*c*) is in affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why the matter was not considered by the Government?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the Jail Commission of 1927 did not inquire into the case of the compounders?

(*f*) If the answer to (*e*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state why it was not done especially in view of the Government's reply mentioned in (*b*) above?

(*g*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to consider the case of the jail compounders independent of any Jails Committee?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (JAILS) (the Hon'ble Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur, of Nadia): (*a*) and (*b*) No. The memorial referred to was addressed to the Inspector-General of Prisons and was disposed of by him.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The matter was considered by Government, and the recommendations were not accepted.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) The matter did not come directly within the scope of the inquiry.

(*g*) No.

Treatment in jails of prisoners convicted under section 124 A, Indian Penal Code.

*30. **Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the treatment in jails of prisoners convicted

under section 124 A, Indian Penal Code, does not rest with him, but that such cases are specially dealt with by the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department?

(*b*) If so, under what law, rule or regulation has this distinction been made?

(*c*) Since when has this distinction been made or observed?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) No.

(*b*) and (*c*) Do not arise.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANERJEE: Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the applications of persons seeking interviews with persons convicted under section 124A are always referred to the Criminal Investigation Department?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: I am not aware of that.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANERJEE: Is the Criminal Investigation Department under the charge of the Hon'ble Member?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: No, it is under the Political Department.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member inquire whether this is so or not?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: This is a request for action.

Dhamua-Lakshikantapur Railway project.

*31. **Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Public Works (Railways) aware that there is a project to construct a railway called Dhamua-Lakshikantapur Railway passing through the Jaynagar Municipality in the district of the 24-Parganas?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the alignment of the above railway passed through a strip of low-lying land in the village of Majilpur within the Jaynagar Municipality?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the said strip of low-lying land is the spill area of Majilpur, Jaynagar, and other neighbouring villages, the drainage of which flows therein?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the inhabitants of the said villages have strongly opposed its projected alignment through the village of Majilpur and have submitted memorials to the Government of Bengal?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Member further aware that notices of acquisition of land according to the projected alignment have been issued?

(*f*) Has the projected alignment been examined by the Public Health Department with a view to ascertain whether it is likely to obstruct the free flow of drainage of the said villages and affect the health of the inhabitants thereof?

(*g*) If the answer to (*f*) is in the negative, are the Government considering the desirability of instituting an inquiry into this matter by the Public Health Department and of placing the report of such inquiry on the table of the members of this Council?

(*h*) If any enquiry has already been held into this matter, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the report?

(*i*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether it is the practice in the case of railway schemes in Bengal to submit such schemes to the Government of Bengal for expression of opinion as to how the schemes are likely to affect public health?

The Hon'ble Mr. A MARR: (*a*) The construction of a line from Baruipur to Lakshikantapur is in progress. The alignment passes through the Jaynagar Municipality.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) There were memorials both for and against the proposal.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) Yes.

(*g*) The question does not arise.

(*h*) No useful purpose will be served by laying a copy of the report on the table, but it may be stated for the information of the member that the Eastern Bengal Railway propose to construct drainage openings in all places recommended by the Irrigation and Public Health Officers.

(*i*) Yes.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Regarding the answer to clause (*h*), is there any objection to the report of the Public Health Department being laid on the table?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: I do not see any necessity for it. I shall read out the last part of the Eastern Bengal Railway's letter on the point.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: If the Hon'ble Member is prepared to read out the letter, why could not it have been included in his answer?

Mr. PRESIDENT: In any case, I think, he can read out the portion of the letter he has just referred to.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: "The set out of borrow-pits in villages on high land is being very carefully attended to by the Engineer-in-Chief, Construction. Pits will be made as few as possible and every endeavour is being made to drain these into the low-lying grounds. Particularly in regard to the drainage of the area lying within the Joynagar Municipality through which the Railway alignment passes. The following bridges—

1 span of 20 feet,
1 span of 12 feet,
2 spans of 6 feet,

have been provided within a distance of little over one mile. The embankment has now been constructed and if the local Government can point out any place where water is not drained due to the construction of the bank this Railway will be very glad to consider the provision of additional drainage openings."

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: May I know from you, Sir, whether this will be included in the printed answer?

Mr. PRESIDENT: It will, as a matter of course, be included in the proceedings.

3-15 P.M.

Sale of poisonous drugs by a local doctor of Ramnagar in Rampurhat.

***32. Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** With reference to the reply to my starred question No. 2 of the 13th December last, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Police Department be pleased to state—

(i) whether there was any special reason why the past offence of that unlicensed vendor of poisonous drugs was overlooked; and

(ii) whether any consideration passed—*i.e.*, any consideration in the shape of subscription ere the license was granted?

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): (*i*) Yes. The vendor applied immediately for a license, and as he was a *bona fide* medical practitioner with a good reputation and was entitled to receive a license, he was not prosecuted.

(*ii*) No. The member asking the question perhaps has in his mind the fact that on the day of the search the vendor paid part of the sum which he had promised as a donation to the Rampurhat Charitable Dispensary and Town Hall. It has, however, been ascertained on the best authority that the donation was promised long before the search.

Babu JITENDRALAL BAHNERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to tell us who is the "best authority" in question?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: The vendor himself.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if by "*bona fide* medical practitioner" he means a qualified medical practitioner?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: I must ask notice of that.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Is the statement of the vendor in the Hon'ble Member's possession?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: A copy of it is in my possession.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Would he care to lay it on the table or to show it to me?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: I have no objection; I will show it to the hon'ble member.

Mr. Jalaluddin Hashemy.

***33. Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Jalaluddin Hashemy, a person convicted under section 124 A, Indian Penal Code, and sentenced to 6 months' rigorous imprisonment was, during his period of sentence, kept a prisoner in the Alipore New Central Jail from the 3rd September to the 20th of October, 1927, and in the Midnapore Central Jail from the 20th October to the 5th of November, 1927?

(*b*) Is it a fact that, throughout his period of incarceration in the Alipore Central Jail, Mr. Hashemy was kept locked up in one of the

solitary or punishment cells known as the "Ten Cells" with two syphilitic patients on either side of his cell and a leper in an adjoining cell?

(*c*) Is it a fact that, at the Midnapore Jail also, the prisoner Jalaluddin Hashemy was kept locked up in one of the solitary cells known as the "Twenty Cells" or as "Magistrate's or Judicial Cells?"

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether confinement in these Ten or Twenty Cells, as the case may be, is ordinarily intended for prisoners guilty of jail offences?

(*e*) Is it a fact that Jalaluddin had a clean ticket and had earned ten days' special remission for extra work?

(*f*) Is it a fact that at both the Alipore and Midnapore jails Mr. Jalaluddin Hashemy was informed by the Superintendent that his treatment was in accordance with orders given by the Political Department?

(*g*) If the answer to (*f*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state as to why the Political Department should interfere in the treatment of inmates of jails?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. He was kept in "Ten Cells," but these are not solitary or punishment cells. They are used for segregation purposes both for convicts and undertrial prisoners and prisoners frequently make requests to be confined in them. It is not impossible that at that time prisoners suspected of syphilis and leprosy might have been segregated under observation in that block of cells.

(*c*) The "Twenty Cells" are not known as "Magistrate's or Judicial Cells" although they are used for judicial solitary confinement when required. The prisoner in question was accommodated in Twenty Cells which was the best place in this jail for him. These cells are always preferred by the *bhadrolok* class to mixing with the ordinary prisoners in an association ward.

The door of his cell was always wide open during day, and he could always take exercise in the open yard when he wanted.

(*d*) No, so far as "Ten Cells" in the Alipore Central Jail are concerned. At Midnapore, prisoners guilty of jail offences are confined in the "Twenty Cells," but these cells are also used for other purposes.

(*e*) Yes.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) The question does not arise.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to tell us whether Mr. Jalaluddin Hashemy was kept confined in "Ten Cells" at his own request?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: I have no information.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that Mr. Jalaluddin Hashemy protested against the idea of being confined in this cell?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: I have already said I have no information.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Member procure this information?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: That is not a question but a request for action.

Registrar of Co-operative Societies.

*34. **Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state whether it is the policy of the Government to continue the Registrar of Co-operative Societies in the same office for any number of years?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: In view of the decision arrived at when the present incumbent was appointed, Government have no present intention of making a change.

Land in the Basanti Abad 2nd portion in the Canning Town of the 24-Parganas.

*35. **Babu SASI SEKHAR BASU:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) aware that a large tract of land (area about 100,000 bighas) belonging to the Government and let out temporarily to Nafar Chandra Pal Chaudhuri in the Basanti Abad 2nd portion in the Canning Town of the 24-Parganas district has been under salt water for want of embankment for nearly 5 years?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the purpose of settlement with the said Nafar Chandra Pal Chaudhuri was to reclaim the waste lands?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that Satish Chandra Pal Chaudhuri, the son of said Nafar Chandra Pal Chaudhuri, the present proprietor, did not keep the embankment in repair with the result that the crops of tenants have failed for the last 5 successive years, and that the rents have been realised from the tenants in full without any consideration?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that several petitions by the tenants were made to the District Magistrate, 24-Parganas, without any practical results?

(*e*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the tenanted area has become practically *jalakar* and have been let out to fishermen on *jalakar* basis superseding the existing tenants, thus defeating the original purpose of reclamation of the lands?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of making an enquiry into the matter at an early date?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) The area is 24,404 bighas, of which about 200 bighas are under salt water owing to the embankments not being in proper condition.

(*b*) Under the terms of the lease, the lessee was required to clear and make fit for cultivation one-eighth of the entire lot at the end of the fifth year from the date of the lease.

In the lease given for 40 years in 1900 under the rules of 1879, there was no stipulation for making or maintaining embankments.

(*c*) There has been a failure of crops owing to the embankments not being kept in proper order. The rents are being realised from the tenants without consideration of the failure of crops.

(*d*) One petition was received by the Collector.

(*e*) A portion of the area has been let out in *jalakar* this year.

(*f*) The matter is being inquired into.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: In spite of the failure of crops on account of the want of repair of the embankments, rents have been realised from the tenants. May I know who is responsible for the repair of the embankments?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: The zemindar himself.

Government Weaving Institute, Serampore.

*36. **Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE:** Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries be pleased to state—

(*i*) the amount of expenditure involved in the maintenance of the teaching staff of the Government Weaving Institute, Serampore; and

(*ii*) the amount of annual expenditure involved for maintenance of the post of the Principal?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*i*) Rs. 35,718.

(*ii*) Rs. 17,400.

School Code and grants-in-aid.

*37. **Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education aware that the University of Calcutta is enforcing the terms of the School Code on the managing committees of aided high English schools by making the observance of the School Code *in toto* a necessary condition for affiliation?

(*b*) If so, what will be the attitude of Government towards the renewal of grants-in-aid?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) No such case has been reported.

(*b*) Does not arise at present. All possibility of dispute will disappear if certain modifications of the School Code now under discussion with the University are accepted, so far as aided schools are concerned.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how long this matter has been under discussion between his Department and the University?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: The correspondence has been going on since May last year; the University has not replied to our letter yet, and a reminder was sent to them last November.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: How long has the discussion been going on?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I have already answered that.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: May I ask whether any steps have been taken to find out whether the enforcement of the terms referred to in the question is a fact or not?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: No steps can be taken until the reply of the University is received.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that the Inspectors of the Department are asking aided schools to adopt a School Code which is a modified form of the University School Code?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: I have no information.

Clerks employed in the Cess Revaluation Office, Khulna.

***38. Maulvi SHAMSUR-RAHMAN:** (*a*) With reference to the reply given to unstarred question No. 75 on the 14th December, 1927, is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) aware that two classes of clerks are taken for cess revaluation work, *i.e.*, establishment clerks and job and contract clerks?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that in job and contract works no previous experience is needed?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing the names and qualifications of the persons taken in the department of—

(*i*) Establishment; and

(*ii*) Job and contract?

(*d*) Is it a fact that Musalmans with previous experience have been refused appointments?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason why more Musalmans were not appointed in the job and contract department in order to give effect to Circular No. 3386 A., dated the 20th April, 1914, of the Government of Bengal, Appointment Deparment?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) No. Job and contract workers do the technical work of assessment.

(*c*) (*i*) and (*ii*) Statements are annexed hereto.

(*d*) No.

(*e*) Effect has been given to the circular as far as possible, and amongst the total number of 19 job and contract rate clerks, 14 are Hindus and 5 Muhammadans.

Statement referred to in the answer to clause (c) (i) of starred question No. 38 showing the names and qualifications of establishment clerks employed in the Cess Revaluation Office, Khulna.

Serial No.	Names.	Designation.	Pay.	Qualifications.
			Rs.	
1	Munshi Abul Hasnat ..	Supervisor, Head Clerk.	100	Experienced clerk of the permanent establishment of the local Collectorate deputed in the Cess Revaluation Department.
2	Babu Jogendra Nath Chatterji.	Nazir ..	45	Experienced.
3	Babu Baroda Kanta Das	Record-keeper	40	Do.
4	Babu Sarat Chandra Das	Peshkar ..	40	Special consideration was made on account of his war service.
5	Babu Ramesh Ch. Chakrabarty.	Sec. Clerk ..	40	Experienced in cess revaluation work.
6	Babu Ganapati Sen Gupta	Do. ..	40	Ditto.
7	Babu Nagendra Nath Chatterji.	Do. ..	40	Ditto.
8	Babu Baroda Prosad Shome	Do. ..	40	Ditto.
9	Babu Upendra Nath Das Gupta.	Do. ..	40	Ditto.
10	Babu Suresh Chandra Maitra.	Do. ..	40	Ditto.
11	Babu Nagendra Nath Sarkar.	Checker ..	40	Ditto.
12	Babu Jnanendra Nath Sen Gupta.	Do. ..	40	Ditto.
13	Babu Arun Kanto Ghosh	Do. ..	40	Ditto.
14	Babu Gopal Chandra Brahma.	Do. ..	40	Ditto.
15	Munshi Abdul Hafiz ..	Do. ..	40	Ditto.
16	Munshi Alidad Hossein ..	Do. ..	40	Ditto.
17	Babu Indu Sekhar Chakrabarty.	Sec. Muharrir	30	Experienced in settlement work.
18	Babu Sree Nath Das ..	Do. ..	30	Specially considered on account of his war service.
19	Babu Jyotish Ch. Datta Choudhury.	Do. ..	30	Experienced in cess revaluation work.
20	Babu Madhusudan Bhattacharji.	Do. ..	30	Ditto.
21	Babu Indu Bhushan Chatterji.	Do. ..	30	Experienced in settlement work.
22	Babu Hemendra Nath Dutta.	Do. ..	30	Ditto.
23	Babu Bishnu Charan Chatterji.	Do. ..	30	Experienced in cess revaluation work.
24	Babu Jatendra Nath Roy	Do. ..	30	Ditto.
25	Babu Rabindra Nath Ghosh	Do. ..	30	Ditto.
26	Babu Birendra Nath Nag	Do ..	30	Ditto.
27	Babu Tarak Chandra Roy	Do. ..	30	Ditto.
28	Munshi Muhammad Amir Ali.	Do ..	30	Ditto.

Statement referred to in the answer to clause (c) (ii) of starred question No. 38 showing the names and qualifications of the job and contract clerks employed in the Cess Revaluation Office, Khulna.

Serial No.	Names.	Designation.	Pay.	Qualifications.
			Rs.	
1	Munshi Muhammad Mobarak Ali.	Job and contract rate clerk.	25	Experienced in cess revaluation work.
2	Babu Nishi Kanto Aich ..	Ditto ..	25	Ditto.
3	Babu Hriday Krishna Banerji.	Ditto ..	25	Passed Matric.
4	Babu Surendra Nath Chatterji.	Ditto ..	25	Read up to B.A.
5	Babu Ramesh Chandra Banerji.	Ditto ..	25	Experienced in settlement work.
6	Babu Baman Das Ghosal	Ditto ..	20	Read up to I.A.
7	Babu Profulla Kumar Gangull.	Ditto ..	20	
8	Babu Amrita Lal Sarkar	Ditto ..	20	Read up to I.A.
9	Babu Kamalesh Chandra Sen.	Ditto ..	20	Ditto.
10	Babu Surendra Chandra Chakrabarty.	Ditto ..	20	Passed Matric.
11	Babu Khagendra Nath Paul	Ditto ..	20	Read up to I.A.
12	Babu Kamakhya Prosad Raha.	Ditto ..	20	Read up to the I.Sc.
13	Babu Narendra Nath Chatterji.	Ditto ..	20	Experienced in settlement work.
14	Babu Hare Krishna Das ..	Ditto ..	20	Passed Matric.
15	Munshi Muhammad Adeluddin.	Ditto ..	20	Read up to I.A.
16	Munshi Kazi Muhammad Arostum.	Ditto ..	20	
17	Munshi Muhammad Abdul Hamid.	Ditto ..	20	
18	Babu Sushil Kumar Guha	Ditto ..	20	Experienced in settlement work.
19	Munshi Abdul Majid ..	Ditto ..	20	Experienced in cess revaluation work.

Distress owing to failure of crops in certain thanas in Bankura.

***39. Babu RADHA GOBINDA RAY:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether it is a fact, that owing to failure of crops very acute distress has been caused to the people in the thanas of Sonamukhi, Patrasair, Kotalpur and Joypur in the Bishnupur subdivision, in the district of Bankura?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state—

(*i*) what actual steps, if any, have been taken by the Government to afford relief to the affected people; and

(*ii*) what is the approximate area and the number of people affected by the scarcity?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether the Government have taken any steps to collect any information about the extreme distress of the respectable middle class people?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of extending the benefits of gratuitous relief to such widowed females of respectable middle class families as are unwilling to join the test relief works?

(*e*) What are the agencies by which information about the condition of the people in the affected area is collected by the Government?

(*f*) Are the Government considering the desirability of directing the Government officers to conduct inquiries about the condition of the middle class respectable families in the affected area with the help of gentlemen of the locality?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) Owing to the failure of about 12 annas of *aman* crop, there is distress in these thanas.

(*b*) (*i*) Rs. 16,000 has been sanctioned as land improvement and agricultural loans and Rs. 1,000 for gratuitous relief in the affected parts of the district.

(*ii*) About 200 square miles with a population of nearly 84,000.

(*c*) Weekly reports are being received from local officers about the condition of all classes of people.

(*d*) Gratuitous relief is intended for persons incapable of doing even light work, such as husking of paddy.

(*e*) The reports of the local officers of Government are based on information collected from the local people.

(*f*) The local officers will not refuse any help that may be offered.

Provision for accommodation for offices and quarters for sub-registrars.

*40. **Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education (Registration) be pleased to lay a statement on the table showing the number of sub-registry offices—

(*i*) in Government buildings,

(*ii*) in private rented houses,

(*iii*) with sub-registrars' quarters, and

(*iv*) without sub-registrars' quarters?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of supplying Government buildings and office-houses with quarters to the sub-registrars?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) (*i*) 117.

(*ii*) 292 (excluding 8 offices held in rent-free buildings).

(*iii*) 98.

(*iv*) 319. In these places the sub-registrars have made their own arrangements.

(*b*) The question of providing Government buildings for the offices and quarters of the sub-registrars in places where they are needed is receiving the consideration of Government.

Provision in the budget for payment of typists and copyists of courts by salaries.

*41. **Srijut NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state whether any provision will be made in the next budget for payment of typists and copyists of courts by salaries instead of fees?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: No such provision will be made.

Kobadak river.

*42. **Srijut NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation aware that the source of the river Kobadak and the inlet of sweet water from the Ganges have been shut up, and that in consequence thereof a very large tract of land in the districts of Nadia, Jessore and Khulna have deteriorated both in health and wealth?

(*b*) Have the Government any intention to dredge or canalise this silted up portion?

(*c*) Is it a fact that the Khulna District Board laid this matter before His Excellency the Governor when he visited Khulna in July last and also before the Hon'ble Member for Irrigation when he subsequently visited Khulna in August last?

(*d*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that famine conditions have appeared in that part of the Khulna district which is watered by the Kobadak river?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of IRRIGATION (the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali Chaudhuri, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) A project for improving the river is under the consideration of Government, and is known as the Bhairab Project, Part I.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) No.*

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Anjana river.

10. Mr. A. C. BANERJEE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be placed to state whether any survey was ever made, and an estimate of costs prepared, for opening out the Anjana (in the district of Nadia) with a view to maintain its flow of water throughout the year?

(*b*) If so, when was it done?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the opening of the river will bring relief to an area of nearly 74 square miles inhabited by over 40,000 inhabitants?

(*d*) What will be the cost of opening the river?

(*e*) What steps, if any, do the Government propose to take to open out the river?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) In 1920.

(*c*) Yes, but the scheme was examined in detail by the Director of Public Health, Bengal, who came to the conclusion that its benefits were dubious, and that it was not a suitable project to be carried out under the Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act, VI of 1920.

(*d*) The cost would be Rs. 4,04,690 approximately.

(*e*) A fresh project for flushing the Anjana by means of a cut, from the Jalangi river, above Krishnagar, to the Heler khal is under investigation.

Khas Mahal lands settled with tenants in Noakhali.

11. Babu SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state the total area of *khas mahal* lands at present settled with tenants in the district of Noakhali?

(*b*) How many of these tenants are—

(*i*) Hindus; and

(*ii*) Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) 343 square miles.

(*b*) Exact information is not available and cannot be collected without considerable trouble and expense. The vast majority are Muhammadans.

Silting up of the mouth of the Chota Bhairab.

12. Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Irrigation be pleased to state whether the mouth of the Chota Bhairab running through thanas Daulatabad and Haripara of the Murshidabad district is silted up?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the water of the Chota Bhairab becomes unfit for drinking purposes during most part of the year?

(*c*) Is it a fact that villages on the banks of the Chota Bhairab are yearly visited by epidemics and malaria?

(*d*) Is it a fact that the river Bhairab has become very narrow near the Chota Bhairab at Dengapara in thana Daulatabad?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) and (*c*) There is no information on the points in the Irrigation Department.

(*d*) An inquiry was made in 1925 and it was reported that this old channel was only of use for irrigation and that it was not advisable to dredge it at the expense of the Main Bhairab. It might lead to vast changes.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that the river Bhairab has become a running stream for the past year or so?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari: I have no information.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether any attempt whatever has been made to find out if the river Bhairab can be connected with the Chota Bhairab at Dengapara?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari: I have no information.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: With reference to the answer to my questions (*b*) and (*c*), will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if the Department of Irrigation has non-co-operated with the Department of Public Health?

The Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur SAIYID NAWAB ALI CHAUDHURI, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari: I must ask for fresh notice.

Failure of crop in Murshidabad.

13. Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that there is failure of *aman* crop and of *Chaitali* in the district of Murshidabad?

(*b*) Is it a fact that test works have been opened in the district?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the District Board has no funds to pay for test works?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) Yes, partially in certain parts of the district.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes: Government have already placed a sum of Rs. 16,000 at the disposal of the District Board and are prepared to make further advances when necessary.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether it is a fact that labourers earn only ten or twelve pice for the test work they have to do?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: They are paid according to the Famine Code.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the amount paid is altogether insufficient to keep up a single man?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: The amount provided in the Famine Code is allowable.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether Government contemplate changing the rules?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: No.

Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what is the date of the Famine Code?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: The member will find the date printed in the Code, a copy of which is in the Library.

Ex-détenus and congressmen holding professorships in college.

14. Babu NAGENDRA NARAYAN RAY: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state the attitude of the Government towards *ex*-détenus and congressmen holding professorships in any Government-aided private college?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the attitude of Government towards the *ex*-détenus and *ex*-congressmen holding such posts even when these latter persons have given up their connection with politics?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the District Magistrate of Rangpur or the Principal or any member of the Governing Body of the Rangpur Carmichael College communicated with the Government of Bengal on the question of appointment of an *ex*-détenu and *ex*-congressman, who gave up all connection with politics, to the lecturership in that College sometime in August, 1927?

(*d*) If the question to (*c*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the communication and the reply to it?

(*e*) Did the Principal of the Rangpur Carmichael College interview the Hon'ble Minister, or any other member of the Government, or the Director of Public Instruction over the question referred to in (*c*)?

(f) If the answer to (e) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a copy of the answer of the Hon'ble Minister, or of any other member, or of the Director of Public Instruction to the Principal?

(g) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the principle of the Government regarding the services of détenus and congressmen in Government institutions and elsewhere?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (a) and (b) There is no bar to such gentlemen being employed. Each case is decided on its merits.

(c) No.

(d) Does not arise.

(e) Government have no information of such an interview.

(f) Does not arise.

(g) As for (a) and (b).

Distress in the Balurghat subdivision.

15. Maulvi KADER BAKSH: (a) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether relief work is still going on in the affected areas of the Balurghat subdivision?

(b) If the answer to (a) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reason therefore?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state—

(i) whether the acuteness of the situation in the affected areas has grown more intense than it was up till the middle of December, 1927;

(ii) whether the number of labourers fell at the relief centre entirely for the reason of relief work being denied to them before the beginning of the harvest season;

(iii) the number of persons who have migrated from their villages to other places with the dates of their migration;

(iv) what are the names of the places of their migration; and

(v) whether any such persons have returned to their respective villages?

(d) If the answer to (c) (v) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what they are doing now?

(e) Are the Government considering the desirability of starting any relief work for the affected people?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) No.

(*b*) There was no demand. The labourers found more profitable employment elsewhere.

(*c*) (*i*) No.

(*c*) (*ii*) Attendance fell to 24 and then to nil between 3rd and 10th, December. This is the reason the works were closed.

(*c*) (*iii*) (*iv*) (*v*) and (*d*) Information is not available.

(*e*) Government are prepared to help the District Board to re-open relief work, if the need arises.

3-30 P.M.

Maulvi KADER BAKSH: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the name of any of the profitable employment which he means by his answer?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: I think the labourers left the place for paddy cutting elsewhere where they get better wages.

Maulvi KADER BAKSH: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state when the harvest season began and when it was over?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: At the usual times.

Maulvi KADER BAKSH: Is the Hon'ble Member aware that there has been a total failure of crop in five thanas of the subdivision of Balurghat, namely, Gangarampur, Balurghat, Porsha, Patnitala and Topan and no labourers could be employed in those areas?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: Probably the labourers went to other areas for paddy cutting.

Maulvi KADER BAKSH: Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the people living in those areas are unwilling to go outside their own houses?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: If they cannot find a living in their own village I presume they would want to migrate to other areas.

Maulvi KADER BAKSH: Is the Hon'ble Member aware that 150 persons were taken from these areas to work at the railway extension Ruhia-Dinajpur only about 40 miles from their houses and these men returned to their homes under untold miseries?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: I am not aware. Unless the figures are absolutely incorrect, the attendance fell to 24 and then to nil between the 3rd and 10th December, 1927. These are telling figures.

Maulvi KADER BAKSH: Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the fall in the number was entirely due to the issue of instructions by some person in authortiy that any man having 10 bighas of land will not be allowed to work in any centre?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: If any instruction has been issued it has been absolutely in accordance with the Famine Code.

Maulvi KADER BAKSH: Is the Hon'ble Member aware that I put a similar question in the last session in December and that it still remains unanswered.

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is no question.

Maulvi KADER BAKSH: Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the relief work was stopped only on account of want of funds?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: I am not aware.

Maulvi KADER BAKSH: Is the Hon'ble Member aware that Rs. 5,000 were kept reserved for the purpose of excavating a tank in the affected area near Sarpahar?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: I have no information.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what has happened since the middle of December, 1927, to relieve distress in that locality so as to make relief work unnecessary?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: The Collector has not asked for further grants. The thing is that as acute distress may occur in future Government are reserving all funds available for a real famine. Probably in March, April and May there may be more distress so we must be very careful and provide funds for that.

Post of the Deputy Chairman of the Ganja Society at Naogaon.

16. Maulvi KADER BAKSH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Agriculture and Industries (Excise) be pleased to state whether the post of the Deputy Chairman of the Ganja Society at Naogaon is about to fall vacant?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Government are considering the desirability of appointing a Musalman officer to the post?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of AGRICULTURE and INDUSTRIES (EXCISE) (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruf Hossain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) The post referred to is due to fall vacant in June next.

(*b*) Government will consider the desirability of appointing a Muhammadan to the post.

Promotion of clerks of the lower division of the Bengal Secretariat.

17. Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: With reference to my starred question No. 6 of the 13th December last, will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state—

(*i*) what the percentage was before 1910; and

(*ii*) what is it now?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: (*i*) Between the years 1894 and 1910 the ministerial staff of the Bengal Secretariat was not divided into lower and upper divisions, but in spite of the absence of this division, all vacancies in the upper grades were not open to the clerks of the lower grades, because Government reserved the right to appoint an outsider to any grade when the appointment required special experience, knowledge or aptitude, and when it could not be suitably filled from the office itself.

(*ii*) One-third of the vacancies in the upper division are filled by promotion from the lower division. This proportion may be exceeded, so long as all the assistants in the lower division who were recruited previous to April, 1910, and are considered fit for promotion, have not been provided for.

Narayanpur Free Primary School.

18. Babu SASI SEKHAR BASU: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether

[illegible] a fact that the pay of the teachers of the Free Primary School at [illegible]yanpur in the Barrackpore subdivision in the 24-Parganas district [illegible] not been paid for the last three months?

(b) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons for this unusual delay?

(c) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what steps, if any, he proposes to take in the matter?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (a) Payment was stopped in August last.

(b) On account of irregularities in the School.

(c) The Secretary of the School having written to the Chairman, District Board, undertaking to remove the defects in the School, the salary bills have been released. No action, therefore, seems necessary at present. A report from the Chairman is awaited and the case will be reconsidered on its receipt.

Number of appeals lodged before the District Sub-Registrar, 24-Parganas.

19. Babu SASI SEKHAR BASU: (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the last three years—

(i) how many registration appeal cases have been lodged before the District Sub-Registrar, 24-Parganas, Alipore;

(ii) how many of them were decreed;

(iii) how many were dismissed; and

(iv) how many of these decrees have been set aside in the Civil Court?

(b) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware that most of these appeals are preferred from the Mathurapur thana?

(c) If the answer to (b) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the number of the appeal cases from the said thana during the last three years?

(d) Are the Government considering the desirability of making an inquiry into the matter?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (a) (i) to (iv) A statement for the years 1924—1926 is laid on the table.

(*b*) It is not a fact that most of the appeals were preferred from the Mathurapur thana.

(*c*) and (*d*) Do not arise.

Statement referred to in the answer to clause (a) (i) to (iv) of unstarred question No. 19 showing the number of appeals lodged before the District Sub-Registrars of the 24-Parganas, Alipore, during the years 1924—1926.

1924—Total number of appeal cases—60; number of cases decreed—45; number of cases dismissed—15; number of decrees set aside in the Civil Court—Information not available; number of appeals preferred against the orders of the Sub-Registrar of Mathurapur—4.

1925—Total number of appeal cases—55; number of cases decreed—37; number of cases dismissed—18; number of decrees set aside in the Civil Court—Information not available; number of appeals preferred against the orders of the Sub-Registrar of Mathurapur—3.

1926—Total number of appeal cases—62; number of cases decreed—47; number of cases dismissed—15; number of decrees set aside in the Civil Court—Information not available; number of appeals preferred against the orders of the Sub-Registrar of Mathurapur—4.

Posting of Subordinate Judges to the Second Court, Hooghly.

20. Babu AMULYA CHANDRA DATTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Judicial Department be pleased to state—

(*i*) how many Subordinate Judges were posted to the Second Court of the Subordinate Judge, Hooghly, since the transfer of the late Babu Baman Das Mukherjee;

(*ii*) what were the reasons for so many frequent transfers; and

(*iii*) what amount was spent as travelling allowance of the officers so transferred?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that frequent transfer has dislocated the business of the said court?

(*c*) If so, what steps, if any, are the Government proposing to take to prevent the recurrence of such a state of things?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY: (*a*) (*i*) 14.

(*ii*) The transfers were necessary in the exigencies of public service and were unavoidable.

(ii) The collection of the information will involve an expenditure of labour and time out of proportion to the advantage to be gained.

(iii) No complaints have been received in the matter.

(iv) The question does not arise.

Acquisition of a portion of the maidan in Chinsura for building bungalows for Government officials.

21. Babu AMULYA CHANDRA DATTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Public Works be pleased to state whether it is proposed to acquire a portion of the *maidan* in Chinsura lying to the east of the District Judge's quarters and between the Free Church School premises and the Commissioner's quarters,' for the purpose of building bungalows for Government officials?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Minister aware of the strong public feeling in Chinsura against such a scheme?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether any representations have been received from the people of Chinsura protesting against the acquisition of the land?

(*d*) If so, what action do the Government intend to take in this matter?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): (*a*) There is a proposal to construct two residences on this site, which already belongs to Government.

(*b*), (*c*) and (*d*) The matter is under consideration of Government.

Ministerial officers in the mufassal offices.

22. Babu AMULYA CHANDRA DATTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Finance be pleased to state whether it is a fact that a committee (presided over by the Hon'ble Sir James Donald, C.I.E., I.C.S.), on the lines of the Wages Board in England, was recently appointed to consider the question of revision of pay and prospects of the ministerial officers under the Government of Bengal in the mufassal offices?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state—

(*i*) whether the committee have submitted its report; and

(*ii*) whether the report will be published?

(*d*) Are the Government considering the desirability of increasing the present pay and prospects of those ministerial officers on the scale as suggested at the last annual session of the "All-Bengal Ministerial Officers' Conference" held at Chinsura in December, 1926?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: (*a*) No committee was formally appointed, but representatives of the ministerial officers in the various Government departments were invited to a conference at which the Hon'ble Sir James Donald presided.

(*b*) and (*c*) No formal report was prepared, but Sir James Donald made a memorandum, which will not be published, of the representations which in his opinion merited consideration by Government. The recommendations, some of which have been disposed of, are now being examined by Government.

Revaluation of cesses in Noakhali.

23. Babu SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) aware that revaluation of cesses is going on in the district of Noakhali.

(*b*) Is it a fact that the district settlement operations took place in the districts of Tippera and Noakhali under the superintendence of Mr. W. H. Thompson, I.C.S., as Settlement Officer in the year 1917-18?

(*c*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that the same Settlement Officer was authorised to make the revaluation of cesses in these districts?

(*d*) Is it a fact that Mr. Thompson adopted average rates in different localities varying from Rs. 4-7 for the guidance of the Revenue Officers in settling fair and equitable rents, and made cess revaluation on an average rate of Rs. 6-4 per acre?

(*e*) Is it a fact that the present Cess Revaluation Officer has fixed at the flat rate of Rs. 9-6 per acre in all the thanas except Senbagh, Lakshmipur and Ramganj and notices have been issued for Lakshmipur and Ramganj at the flat rate of Rs. 10-15 and lands of Senbagh have been valued at Rs. 7-13 and all other thanas at Rs. 9-6?

(*f*) Is it a fact that a large number of objections and memorials have been submitted to the authorities protesting against the rate of Rs. 9-6 adopted in some thanas?

(*g*) Is it a fact that in the district of Tippera land of productivity and fertility has been valued at a much lower rate?

(h) Is it a fact that the district has been visited by several tornadoes and the fertility of the soil in some parts of the district has diminished owing to saline water and the disease called lefra?

(i) Is it a fact that the price of lands has gone down owing to the fall of price in jutes, nuts, etc.?

(j) Are the Government considering the desirability of fixing the assessment of cesses at the rate of Rs. 6-4 hitherto made in some parts of the district?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Yes.

(*d*) The Settlement Officer could not adopt average rates for the guidance of Revenue Officers when settling rents under Chapter X of the Tenancy Act. He may have adopted an average rate of Rs. 6-4 for the *khas* lands of zamindars in certain thanas for the purposes of cess revaluation.

(*e*) It is understood that the *khas* lands of zamindars have been assessed at these rates for the purposes of cess valuation.

(*f*) No.

(*g*) The rates are based on the rents for which similar lands have been recently leased in the same areas. It is possible that the rates for equally good land in Tippera are lower.

(*h*) This may have happened in certain limited areas.

(*i*) This is not known to be the case generally.

(*j*) No.

Supply of pillows, blankets and mosquito-nets to prisoners in jails.

24. Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that the prisoners in the jails are not allowed any pillows to rest their heads on;

(*ii*) that the prisoners everywhere get the same number of blankets to wrap them up in the winter irrespective of the climatic conditions; and

(*iii*) that there is no provision for mosquito-curtains?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, what steps, if any, are being taken in the matter?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) (*i*) Yes, in the case of Indian convict prisoners. Civil and under-trial prisoners may use pillows if they possess them, but they are not supplied at Government expense.

(*ii*) Yes, but the medical officer may order extra blankets for particular prisoners on medical grounds.

(*iii*) The member is referred to the answer given to starred question No. 48 asked by Srijut Nagendra Nath Sen on 24th August, 1927.

(*b*) Government do not propose to take any further steps in the matter.

Facilities to the Moslem prisoners in jails to say their prayers.

25. Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Jails) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that no facilities are given to the Moslem prisoners in the (Jails) to say their daily obligatory prayers and also to say the special congregational prayers on Fridays and *Id* days?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of making suitable arrangements in this direction?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) No. The member is referred to rules 689 F. and 691A. of the Jail Code.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Arrangements for passengers' comforts in the Teesta-Kurigram Light Railway.

26. Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Public Works (Railways) be pleased to state whether it is a fact—

(*i*) that there is no suitable lighting arrangement in the carriages of the Teesta-Kurigram Light Railway;

(*ii*) that there are no latrine arrangements in the inter and 3rd class compartments of the aforesaid train;

(*iii*) that there is no fencing along the said railway?

(*b*) Are the Government considering the desirability of taking any steps to redress the grievances at an early date?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: (*a*) (*i*) and (*ii*) Government have no information.

(*iii*) Yes.

(*b*) The matter may be referred to the Advisory Committee, Eastern Bengal Railway.

Representation regarding realisation of settlement cost from the Murshidabad district.

27. Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that representations have been submitted to the Government for the postponement of realisation of settlement cost from the Murshidabad district?

(*b*) Is it a fact that *aus*, *aman* and *chaitali* crops have failed in the district for want of rain?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) One such representation has recently been received from certain inhabitants of some villages in the Sagardighi thana of the district.

(*b*) *Aman* and *rabi* crops have failed partially, but not wholly, in portions of some thanas in Murshidabad, but not over the district as a whole. The *aus* crop was not noticeably affected by want of rain.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if it is not a fact that *aman* crop has almost failed in the subdivision of Jangipur in the Murshidabad district?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: I have already said that there has been a partial failure of crop.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if it is not a fact that *aman* crop has almost failed in the Kandi subdivision of the Murshidabad district?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: I have no information but if the hon'ble member wants it I will ask for notice.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if he will take steps to postpone the realisation of the cost of settlement for the present?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY of Nadia: As I have already stated there was only one representation to Government. Government do not propose to postpone the realisation of the cost.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi EKRAMUL HUQ: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if, considering the fact that the Murshidabad district is visited with famine, he will take steps to see that the cost of settlement is not realised this year?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: No compulsory measures have been taken yet, and I do not think that Government are prepared to postpone realisation.

Grants-in-aid to certain educational institutions.

28. Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for the years 1925-26 and 1926-27—

(*i*) the number of secondary schools and colleges in this province in receipt of grant-in-aid from Government;

(*ii*) the amounts of such grants; and

(*iii*) the amounts spent for grants-in-aid to girls' maktabs?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the answer to unstarred question No. 28.

(*i*) (*a*) Number of colleges in receipt of grants-in-aid from Government in 1925-26, 19; in 1926-27, 20. (*b*) Number of secondary schools in receipt of grants-in-aid from Government in 1925-26, 814; in 1926-27, 814.

(*ii*) Amounts of grants to—(*a*) Colleges in 1925-26, Rs. 2,25,537; in 1926-27, Rs. 2,39,117. (*b*) Secondary schools in 1925-26, Rs. 10,92,732; in 1926-27, Rs. 11,00,932.

(*iii*) Amounts spent for grants-in-aid to girls' maktabs in 1925-26, Rs. 3,270; in 1926-27, Rs. 3,780.

Scales of pay of clerks of zilla schools and of offices of District and Subdivisional Inspectors of Schools.

29. Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state what are the scales of pay of the clerks of—

(*i*) zilla schools; and

(*ii*) the offices of District and Subdivisional Inspectors of Schools?

(*b*) Is there any disparity between the two scales?

(*c*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the reasons, if any, for such disparity?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) (*i*) Rs. 35—35—40—2—68—3/2—80.

(*ii*) Rs. 35—35—40—2/2—60.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) The scale of pay for each class of officers was fixed in consideration of the nature of work that each class had normally to do.

Distribution of khas mahal lands in Bakarganj.

30. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether it is in the contemplation of Government to try the new Faridpur scheme as to the distribution of khas mahal lands to unemployed youths of the middle classes after a year's training in any other district, specially at Bakarganj which is pre-eminently an agricultural district?

(*b*) Is it a fact that in the district of Bakarganj some lands were given previously to youths of the middle classes, mostly Muhammadans?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) Government are willing to make similar experiments in Bakarganj, if the local officers report that suitable lands and suitable candidates are forthcoming.

(*b*) No. The Collector has reported that all the *bhadralok* youths who got settlement of lands in Char Fasson in 1924 or 1925 were Hindus.

Mr. P. N. GUHA: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if it is the intention of Government not to move in the matter till the initiative is taken by the district officer, with regard to question (*a*)?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: No, it has never been the intention of Government to do that.

Mr. P. N. GUHA: Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if he has any information with regard to the settlement of land in the khas mahal area of the district of Bakarganj in the years 1926 and 1927.

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: No, I have not got it here.

Percentage of increment in the rate of rent of tenants.

31. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement showing the percentage of increment in the rate of rent of tenants of—

(*i*) temporarily-settled estates; and

(*ii*) khas mahals,

calculating the rate on the rate existing 27 years before and in 1927?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the percentage referred to in (*a*) separately if the same varies in different districts?

(*c*) What is the average increment of revenue in 1927 over 1900?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) and (*b*) The percentage varies not only in every district but in every estate and village. If the word "increment" is intended to exclude increased rent for additional area, then it is impossible to give exact figures. Full information can be obtained in the Settlement Reports of the different districts and it is impossible to tabulate it.

(*c*) According to the Land Revenue Administration Reports, the revenue of temporarily-settled estates rose from Rs. 13,20,193 in 1900 to Rs. 21,27,928 in 1927 and of khas mahals from Rs. 27,38,420 in 1900 to Rs. 34,09,942 in 1927; but as stated above these figures include rent for lands not previously assessed.

of revenue realised from certain estates and khas mahals.

Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur: the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Revenue) be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing for years 1926-27 (*i*) the total amount of revenue realised from—

(*a*) permanently-settled estates;

(*b*) temporarily-settled estates; and

(*c*) khas mahals; and

(*ii*) the total collection from the khas mahals, district by district?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: The information is given in Appendices IA, IB and IC of the Board's Land Revenue Administration Report, 1926-27—available in the Council Library.

Collectorate records when called for in courts.

33. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) be pleased to state whether it is a fact that ordinary papers from the collectorate record-rooms, when called for, are sent through *amlas* or ministerial officers at great expense to the calling parties?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that similar papers from the District Judge's record-room, when called for, are sent by post?

(*c*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of discontinuing the practice existing in the collectorate?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) Government are not aware that ordinary papers are sent in charge of *amlas*. Usually the papers called for are documents or records which the court has summoned the Collector to prove.

(*b*) Yes. Collectorate records like the records of civil courts can be sent by post, when there is no particular reason for sending them in charge of *amlas*, *vide* Rules 195 and 197 of the Bengal Records Manual, where the High Court rules are prescribed for collectorate record-rooms.

(*c*) No.

Copies of documents issuing from certain district :

34. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue (Land Revenue) aware of the fact that copies, especially Bengali copies, of documents issuing from certain district record-rooms are generally illegible?

(*b*) If so, are the Government considering the desirability of securing good copyists?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) Government have no information to this effect.

(*b*) Does not arise.

Point of order.

Maulvi KADER BAKSH: May I know, Mr. President, how many supplementary questions a member may put? Is there any limit?

Mr. PRESIDENT: This is always left to my discretion. With regard to the case you are referring to, I did not allow you to put further supplemenatry questions because I thought you had already put a great many questions and when you resumed your seat and other members rose up to put supplementary questions it was not necessary that I should give you any further opportunity.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: You, as President, Sir, have always the right to allow or disallow a supplementary question, but before a question has been framed, are you entitled to rule that the question shall not be put?

Mr. PRESIDENT: If I find that a particular member is asking too many supplementary questions or is only cross-examining an Hon'ble Member of Government, I am perfectly entitled to disallow him to go any further, at any stage.

Maulvi KADER BAKSH: I may be allowed to point out that my questions were all put with a view to obtain *bona fide* information.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I thought that you had put too many questions. Please resume your seat.

Non-Official Members' Bills.

The following motions were called but not moved and therefore deemed to be withdrawn:—

The Futures Markets Bill, 1927.

Babu PRABHU DOYAL HIMATSINGKA to move for leave to introduce a Bill to provide for the regulation and control of futures markets in Calcutta.

Also to move that the said Bill be taken into consideration.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR to move, by way of amendment, that the said Bill be circulated for the purpose of eliciting opinion thereon by the 15th May, 1928.

Babu PRABHU DOYAL HIMATSINGKA to move that the Bill, as settled in Council, be passed.

The Calcutta Municipal (Amendment) Bill, 1928.

Mr. A. C. BANERJEE to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Calcutta Municipal Act, 1923 (Bengal Act III of 1923).

Also to move that the said Bill be taken into consideration.

Also to move that the Bill, as settled in Council, be passed.

The Bengal Medical (Amendment) Bill, 1928.

Dr. KUMUD SANKAR RAY to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend certain sections of the Bengal Medical Act, 1914.

Also to move that the said Bill be referred to a Select Committee consisting of the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly, C.I.E., the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter, KT., C.I.E., Dr. Bidhan Chandra Roy, Babu Naliniranjan Sarker, Mr. J. G. Drummond, Major-General Godfrey Tate, Raja Bhupendra Narayan Sinha Bahadur, of Nashipur, Rai Harendranath Chaudhuri, Mr. F. E. James, O.B.E., Maulvi Kader Baksh, Mr. P. C. Basu, Babu Surendra Nath Biswas, Mr. Kiran Sankar Roy, Dr. J. M. Das Gupta, Babu Saral Kumar Dutt, and the mover, with instructions to submit their report by the March session of the Bengal Legislative Council, and that the number of members whose presence shall be necessary to constitute a quorum shall be five.

The Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Bill, 1928.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: I beg to move for leave to introduce a Bill to amend the Bengal Agricultural and Sanitary Improvement Act, 1920 (Bengal Act VI of 1920).

Mr. PRESIDENT: Does any member object to leave being granted?

The motion was then put and agreed to.

The Secretary then read the short title of the Bill.

Resolutions

(on matters of general public interest).

Salaried system of Linotype operators.

Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI: I beg to move that this Council recommends to the Government that the Linotype operators who are now working under the piece system be placed on a salaried basis.

The Linotype operators affected by this motion are employees of the Bengal Government Press. On more than one occasion I have discussed the real hardship of piece-workers under Government employ. As a result of the acceptance of my resolution by the then Finance Member, a Committee was appointed in December, 1925, with Mr. McAlpin as Chairman, to inquire into the grievances of the piece-workers in the Bengal Government Press. That Committee, of which I was a member, after a thorough and sifting inquiry submitted a unanimous report in June, 1926, and made certain recommendations but the Government has been very slow indeed to give effect to the vital items of our recommendations. I must apologise for straying from my motions. I only wanted to remind the House how slowly Government moves to ameliorate the miseries of manual workers under Government employ. I would only take a couple of minutes to give you a rough idea of how the Lino operators fare at the Bengal Government Press at Alipore. Just picture for a moment the Lino operators' room in the Bengal Government Press—the operator sitting at his desk. He sits there anxiously waiting upon the salaried section-holder for the distribution of his day's work. After the allotment of the work he has to pay a visit to the mechanic, a salaried hand, and ask him to put the machine in order. Thus you see that the Lino operator is at the mercy of these two salaried men for starting his day's work, and any

[illegible] drowsiness on the part of these two men often costs him ½ to 1 hour's loss of time. After the composition, he takes the matter to the galley-proof pressman, another salaried link of the chain. The pressman takes an impression and sends the proof through a porter to the section-holder and subsequently to the first reader, a salaried man. The first proof-reader sends it back to the section-holder from whom at last it reaches the Lino operator who, after correction, has to pay a second visit to the pressman for a second impression and thence back to the section-holder and to the second proof-reader. The chain goes on and a third impression has to be taken and correction made by a salaried reviser. After further correction, a fourth impression has to be taken, which is called a clean proof and is sent to the author as final proof. It is clear, therefore, that a Lino operator has to depend on at least seven salaried men from allotment to the completion of work and if any of these men fails to do his work properly the poor Lino operator has to pay for that.

But apart from all these, the Lino operator has some special impediments to meet. Allowing that the section-holder is prompt, that the porters are prompt, in fact if all the salaried hands mentioned above on whom he has to depend so much are prompt, there are several other factors which are in no way less important in the determination of the Lino operator's fate. Take for instance, electricity. If the electric wire is fused or becomes in any way defective, the machine cannot be worked and consequently the poor Lino operator has to sit idle for hours together and at times he has to go back to his house without any earning on the principle, "No work, no pay." Again, if the gas pipe is out of order, that also means loss of time to the poor Lino operators for the machine would stop unless the supply of gas is regular. The Lino operator has also to depend for the proper accomplishment of his day's work on the adequate supply of water without which also the machine becomes unworkable. Even when everything else goes right there is the machine itself. It so happens sometimes that the machine would not work, the regular supply of electricity, gas and water notwithstanding. It is then said to be out of gear and a mechanic has to be called in to set it right; and as there is only one mechanic in the Press and not always a competent man the helpless Lino operator has often to return home without any earning if the mechanic cannot set the machine right.

Sir, I now come to the question of pension of these Lino operators. The rule as to pension of these Lino operators is at present the same as that of other piece-workers, which is, that the pension of a piece-worker shall be calculated on his average earnings for the last six years' service in 25 years of approved service. Sir, up to the present time the Government had no occasion to give pension to a single Lino operator. I challenge the Government, if they can pick out a solitary instance

Lino operator cannot live up to the required period, *i.e.*, 25 years. And what again can be the reason of this? It is the very conditions under which he has to work, that are accountable for his premature infirmity. A Lino operator is invariably seen to be disabled after he has served from 10 to 15 years. I may here quote the following resolution, which was passed in the second session of the All-India Press Employees' Conference, Calcutta, as well as the 8th session of the All-India Trades Union Congress, Cawnpore.

"That in view of the fact that the Lino operators have to work in close proximity to the heated furnace in which type material is constantly melting and in view of the fact that the fumes and vapour constantly arising out of the forms are gravely injurious to health, this Conference is of opinion that the Lino operators should be allowed to retire on half pension after 15 years' service.

Sir, the Lino operators, as do all piece-workers in the Bengal Government Press, get the benefit of only 16 days' leave in a year. They do not enjoy the benefit of public holidays, Sundays, privilege leave, casual leave and medical leave, like the salaried hands. The leave rules are most unsatisfactory. One Mr. Glave, an Anglo-Indian, had been working for the last 8 years or so as a permanent Lino operator in the Bengal Government Press. He was suffering from consumption and had to absent himself for some time. He was given the sack, for there stands the iron rule—a piece-worker cannot get more than sixteen days' leave in a year, no matter whether he be ill or in any way disabled accidentally. He is still suffering from the disease. Sir, I can give you facts and figures in support of my argument that the hard labour which the Lino operators have to do *plus* the vicious and injurious atmosphere in which they have to work, ruin their health within a very short time. I consider, therefore, Sir, these leave rules must be modified. I said in this Council two years ago in December, 1925, in regard to the lot of this same unfortunate piece-workers. I know from personal experience that the Bengalis of the compositor and distributor classes cannot possibly keep good health and appearance and attend to many of the social and religious functions with 16 days' leave in the year. When I met these men on Monday (this refers to my visit to the Bengal Government Press in December, 1925), in the presence of Mr. Norton, I saw the paleness and cheerlessness writ largely on the faces of these piece-workers and drew the attention of Mr. Norton to this. My contention is that these Lino operators are State employees and they should be treated on the same basis as other State employees.

In August, 1926, I asked in the Council why the Lino operators in the Bengal Press are so differently treated from those in the employ in the Government of India Press. The Hon'ble Mr. Donald, the then Member in charge of Finance Department, vouchsafed me the reply that he had no definite information concerning the terms of service of Lino operators in the Government of India Press or the

[illegible]ns thereof. May I ask the Government if it is now a position to condescend a reply to that question? When citing references the Government suddenly becomes all knowing and seems to be in possession of all necessary information. Its "masterly inactivity" shows itself most disastrously when those very references have to be carried out.

I would not take more than two minutes before I sit down. I would inform the House that the good relation that formerly existed between the superior officers of the Press and the workers does not exist now. The machinemen and inkmen sent a petition to the Superintendent complaining against Mr. Davis, who lost his temper and abused the Moslem complainants, in most objectionable language which I do not wish to repeat, on the 19th December, which caused serious tension. The second cause of dissatisfaction is the arbitrary dismissal of 6 hands within the last 6 weeks. A third cause is lack of impartiality on the part of superior officers. One Abala Kanto Ray, a compositor, was made permanent over the heads of many senior men. This man is supposed to be a favourite of a certain officer and an informer to inform about the strength of the Press Employees Union, etc. In fact this kind of favouritism shown to a mistry by the name of Fazil, was one of the causes of that serious strike at Lillooah Workshop on the 23rd of January, 1928. Pampered by one of the Bura-Sahibs of this large Railway Workshop at Lillooah, Fazil terrorised the workers and his summary dismissal at my request paved the way of a settlement of that strike. My information is that Abala Kanto, a favourite of the Press officials, a man who was heavily fined by a Magistrate of Alipore for assault, is acting the part of a terrorist and causing great discontent among the Press employees. A fourth cause of the present discontent among the Press employees is the attitude of the Superintendent. He dislikes the idea of his men joining a Trade Union and seems very much upset by the growing strength of the Press Employees Association of which I happen to be the Vice-President. He forgets that the Trade Union Act of 1926 is a law of the land and a Trade Unionist is no longer to be treated as a conspirator or a rebel and has, after the passing of that Act, a legal status. I have on more than one occasion urged Mr. Norton to constitute a Works Committee and in fact the McAlpin Committee unanimously recommended formation of such a Committee. The Government of India has its Works Committee functioning satisfactorily in the Government of India Press in Hastings Street, but Mr. Norton would have none of it. His idea of managing a large press establishment is that he must rule it with an iron hand and none should question his dictatorial powers and the result is discontent. The discontent I can assure you is not the result of any agitation outside the Press.

Coming to my resolution I strongly recommend that the Finance Member be pleased to have the grievances of the Lino operators inquired into by a competent committee with an impartial Chairman and

to introduce salary system in the Linotype Department, as they have in Government of India and all other printing presses, Government and private, in India. I understand that the starting pay of a Lino operator in Government of India Press in Hastings Street is Rs. 100 a month, whereas the average earning of a Lino operator in the Bengal Government Press at Alipore is just a little over Rs. 65 a month. The strength of Lino operating staff at Alipore is 13 *plus* 7 apprentices. These apprentices, all Anglo-Indians, are wholly superfluous, for there are only 13 machines. In case of a vacancy, trained operators are easily available.

A starting pay of Rs. 90 a month with usual increment will average about Rs. 100 a month as against an average of Rs. 125 a month in Government of India Press and the increased cost will not be more than Rs. 400 a month if salary is introduced. I would, therefore, recommend that the Finance Member be pleased to increase the Press grant in the budget by Rs. 5,000 for this purpose.

Mr. W. L. TRAVERS: The mover of this resolution has traversed a considerable ground in moving it, and as a member of the Committee to which he refers—the Committee that was appointed to consider the grievances of the Government Press staff at Alipore—I should like to make a very few remarks. First of all the Committee did find a certain amount of what they thought was justifiable grievance, and made certain recommendation for the removal of this grievance to Government, and if Government has made innovation to set that right, I think the services will be very justly and equitably treated. But, Sir, I must protest against the remark of Mr. Ray Chaudhuri against the Superintendent of that Press. At the time the Committee made the investigation, at any rate they were convinced that Mr. Norton treated the employees under him with great consideration and kindness. Lastly, at the time when the Committee made their report, I strongly opposed the suggestion that piece-work should be abolished and I do so still. In my mind piece-work is the just manner in which an efficient and hard-working workman can earn good earnings, and I do not see any reason why he should be deprived of those earnings in order to raise the salary of the workmen who are slack.

Mr. S. C. MUKERJI: This is not a sensational resolution, and the House is naturally thin. Evidently the members of the Bengal Council want something like a resolution as the No. 12 in the list of business for this session in order to draw a full House. Anyhow the lot of poor men needs careful consideration at the hands of the members of this House, and piece-workers, Linotype operators, etc., are poor men, and if the facts and figures given by the mover of this resolution are correct and if the Hon'ble Member in charge is not in a position to challenge these facts and figures, I think the resolution needs very

[illegible] consideration. These hard-worked poor men as piece-workers do not get sufficient living, and the circumstances are there over which they have no control as very lucidly set forth by Mr. Ray Chaudhuri, and if funds permit, I do not see any reason why these piece-workers should not be placed on a salaried system.

Maulvi ABDUL KARIM: Sir, in supporting this resolution I must say that the case is a very hard one indeed. I think the piece-workers' case deserves favourable consideration. The hon'ble mover has stated the case very fully, and he has given details which require very careful consideration. If it is a fact, and I believe this is a fact, that on certain occasions these poor operators had to go home without earning a single pice and that for no fault of their own, it is certainly very regrettable. If on account of the failure of electricity or gas they fail to earn anything, their case really becomes hard. Again, I understand that after years of hard work they practically get nothing in the way of pension. In these circumstances I believe that it is a case which deserves very favourable consideration, and I hope and trust the Hon'ble Member in charge will take into his kind consideration the case of these poor operators.

Mr. M. ASHRAF ALI KHAN CHAUDHURI: I think this resolution requires a good deal of consideration—poor people like the press men are concerned. And, as we understand, they work on what is termed, the piece system which means no work, no pay. It is absolutely true that this is the best way of paying one, and this is also the best way of earning money, that is to say, you work more and you get more, you work less and you get less. This is very well said about malaria-stricken places where a man after two or three days' work has fever and cannot work, and thus loses his earning. But here the case is quite different. Again, these press men know nothing but their special sort of work. If they were ordinary coolies or labourers we might have understood that they left this work and went to do something else. I, therefore, think it is very hard for these poor men if they are told that the machine has broken down and you have no work and will get nothing. On these grounds I support this resolution.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: The hon'ble mover of this resolution in his speech dealt with many extraneous matters which are not connected with the subject matter of the resolution. I do not propose to follow him in this but to confine myself purely to the resolution itself. I must oppose this resolution. As has been stated here already, the piece-work system prevails in practically all skilled trades in Great Britain, America and other industrial countries, and it is acknowledged that it is the best system for such work, both from the employer's point of view and also from the employee's. The mover of this resolution

has stated that in most presses the piece-work system has been abandoned, but my information is diametrically opposed to his. As to which of us is correct I cannot say, but in printing presses in England, America and Europe generally, as far as my information goes, the piece-work system prevails universally, and in India, as far as I know, the piece-work system prevails everywhere except in the Government of India Press in Calcutta. The mover is correct in stating that in the Government of India Press in Calcutta the Lino operators have been put on a salaried basis, but there are special reasons for that, and these reasons do not apply to the Bengal Press. If the mover wants to use the argument that because the Government of India presses have adopted a certain system, the Bengal Government Press should follow, I do not think that the mover would like us to follow this to its logical conclusion and to adopt their leave rules. Our leave rules are far more generous than theirs. I have said that the piece-work system prevails in Europe, and as a matter of fact the piece rates in Calcutta, which we have adopted, were prepared by Mr. Norton, based on the latest schedules in force in London. For the same reasons the piece-work system is considered the best for every productive branch of labour, and in our press the lino operators, mono operators, compositors, machine men, binders, and the like are all on the piece-work basis. This piece-work system was examined in great detail by the Committee appointed by the Government of India in 1922. That Committee found in its favour and recommended that it should continue. The system is, from its nature, economical and ensures an outturn of work proportionate to the wages earned. If the piece-work system were abolished, the cost of printing to Government would most certainly increase, and the men on a salaried basis could not be paid salaries equivalent to their present rates of pay. As a result of that the more expert operators would lose.

Mr. Travers has mentioned a Committee which met last year and of which the hon'ble mover was a member. I have gone through that Committee's report very carefully, and I do not find that this question was ever raised before that Committee. That Committee made 11 recommendations, not one of which referred to the piece-work system.

This demand for the abolition of the piece-work system does not come, at the present moment certainly, from the men themselves. The men know perfectly well that if this system is changed into a system of daily or monthly pay, they would earn undoubtedly less than at present. The output of work would be much less, and consequently Government would have to employ more men and pay each individual less than at present. The printing charges of the local Government would increase because if daily or monthly wages are introduced, provision would have to be made for more supervision than is necessary at present when it is to the interest of each man to put in as much

as he can. One of the grievances brought before the 1926 Committee was that the piece-workers' earnings were daily decreasing. The Committee found that this was due partly to a decrease in the amount of work sent to the press and partly to a certain amount of over-staffing. Mr. Norton was then on leave, and on his return he went into this question of over-staffing, and he has done his best to remedy that. In recent months the staff has been very fully employed, and as a result the wages are steadily increasing. In these circumstances the men themselves would be the last people in the world to thank us if we transferred them from a piece system to a salaried basis, and on that ground I must oppose this resolution.

[At 4-15 P.M. the Council was adjourned for ten minutes.]

Adjournment.

There being no quorum present when the Council re-assembled it was adjourned at 4-25 P.M. till 3 P.M. on Friday, the 10th February, 1928, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

Proceedings of the Bengal Legislative Council under the provisions of the Government of India Act.

THE Council met in the Council Chamber in the Town Hall, Calcutta, on Friday, the 10th February, 1928, at 3 P.M.

Present:

The Hon'ble the President (Raja MANMATHA NAY RAY CHAUDHURI, of Santosh) in the Chair, the four Hon'ble Members of the Executive Council, the two Hon'ble Ministers and 75 nominated and elected members.

Point of Order.

Maulvi ABDUL KARIM: May I rise to a point of order, Sir, or rather make a complaint with reference to the abrupt ending of yesterday's meeting of the Council. What I want to say is that accustomed to a Council atmosphere which is different to what prevails here, it seems to me most regrettable that we should proceed in this way. We, especially old people like myself, come here at considerable inconvenience from great distances, to do some useful work and not for mere fun, and if Council is adjourned in this way, as was done yesterday, no useful work can be done. I think it is most unfair.

Mr. PRESIDENT (the Hon'ble Raja Manmatha Nath Ray Chaudhuri, of Santosh): I think the best thing for you to do is to appeal to the members. If the members do not turn up, I cannot help it.

Maulvi ABDUL KARIM: When I was a member of the Council of State, one day the Leader of the House did not turn up. He was taken to task by Sir Alexander Muddiman. The Leader of the House was told to be more alive to his responsibilities. Here on Thursday the Leader of the House, not to speak of the Ministers, were away from the Council Chamber when the bell was rung.

Mr. PRESIDENT: I understand your point and sympathise with you; but I cannot take notice of such matters unless sufficient grounds are put forward.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Is it not the duty of the Government members, at any rate, to be present when the Council assembles?

Mr. PRESIDENT: That is not for me to say. I cannot take cognizance of what is happening outside the chamber.

Starred Questions

(to which oral answers were given).

Nomination of non-officials to the district board of Dinajpur.

43. **Maulvi KASIRUDDIN AHAMAD:** With reference to the reply to my starred question No. 10 of the 13th December last, will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*i*) the proportion to which Muhammadans are entitled on the strength of their population and voting strength; and

(*ii*) what are the rules, regulations and circulars under which the question has been decided?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): (*i*) Fifty per cent. approximately.

(*ii*) A copy of Circular No. 2 T.M. of 2nd August, 1912, is laid on the table.

Bengal Municipal Circular No. 2 T.M. of 2nd August, 1912, to Commissioner, referred to in the reply to clause (ii) of starred question No. 43.

I am directed to address you on the subject of the principles that should be adopted in submitting recommendations to Government for the appointment of Municipal Commissioners. One-third of the number of such Commissioners are, under the law, to be appointed by Government, and it is considered desirable that some indication should be given of the policy Government wish to adopt in making these nominations.

2. The object of retaining these nominations in the hands of Government is to enable them to correct possible inequalities in the operation of the elective system and to provide a necessary element of official experience in the corporation. The only difficulty that is likely to arise is with reference to what should be held to constitute an adequate representation of any particular community or interest, and while recognising that circumstances must differ in particular localities, and that therefore no hard and fast rule can be enforced, Government desire to indicate generally the criterion which may properly be used to guide the local officers in this matter.

3. For the sake of simplicity the most common case of a municipality inhabited practically entirely by Muhammadans and Hindus may be taken as an illustration. In order to form an opinion as to the proportional representation that each of these communities should rightly be given, statistics should be compiled to show (1) population: (*a*) Muhammadans, (*b*) Hindus; (2) the number of voters: (*a*) Muhammadans, (*b*) Hindus; (3) the total rates paid by (*a*) Muhammadans, (*b*) Hindus. These figures should be carefully considered by the local officer and, although it is not suggested that the tests thus provided are of equal value, they will serve to correct what might prove an erroneous view of the importance of one community or the other were the population test to be taken by itself. Having thus formed his view as to the proper proportion of the representation to which each community is entitled, the local officer should use his nominations to correct any material variation from these proportions which may be shown by the results of the elections, after providing for the necessary element of official experience. After thus utilising his nominations in the first instance, the residue, if any, should be distributed by him among various communities or interests in the way that may appear to him to be most equitable.

4. The case of local boards and district boards is somewhat different and the tests are not easy to apply, but an endeavour should be made to follow the same principles in dealing with nominations to these bodies also.

Ayurvedic Committee.

*44. **Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Medical) be pleased to state whether in 1921 a committee, called the Ayurvedic Committee, was appointed by the Government during the ministry of the late Sir Surendranath Banerjea?

(*b*) Is it a fact that the committee submitted a report making certain recommendations sometime in 1925?

(*c*) Has that report been published? If not, why not?

(*d*) Is it a fact that, after the submission of the said report, the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur of Nadia, who was the Member then in charge of the Department of Public Health, appointed a sub-committee to draw up a scheme?

(*e*) If so, was any such scheme submitted by Mr. Jadunath Sircar who was a member of the sub-committee?

(*f*) Have Government taken any steps to give effect to the scheme?

(*g*) If no steps have been taken, are the Government considering the desirability of taking any steps in the near future?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (MEDICAL) (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): (*a*) Yes.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) No, as it is still under the consideration of Government.

(*d*) and (*e*) The Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur of Nadia consulted certain gentlemen among whom was Mr. Jadunath Sircar informally; they drew up a scheme and sent it to him under Mr. Jadunath Sircar's signature.

(*f*) and (*g*) The matter is under the consideration of Government.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Considering that the matter has been under the consideration of the Government for the last 7 years, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to say how long more the matter will take?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: I am very glad Babu Jitendralal Bannerjee has given me this opportunity of explaining the matter. I, at any rate, am not responsible for the delay of the last 7 years.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: Government is responsible?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: Government may or may not be responsible, but I have not yet taken up the question with that promptitude which I would like to, because I find that decision on this question will not be useful before September next. Hon'ble members are aware that the departmental schemes are presented in September. When I took charge of the present portfolio in October of last year, I found I would not have opportunity to deal with the question this session; I naturally paid more attention to more useful and urgent work.

Medical School at Chittagong.

***45. Khan Bahadur Maulvi SYED MAQBUL HUSAIN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Medical) be pleased to state whether the Government Medical School at Chittagong will be started in July, 1928?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the negative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state the cause for the delay?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) Every endeavour is being made to start the school in July, 1928.

(*b*) For lack of detailed estimates, it has not yet been possible to sanction the commencement of building work.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi SYED MAQBUL HUSAIN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state, due to whose negligence the detailed estimates have not been prepared, thus causing delay in the commencement of the work?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: So far as I am aware, it is not due to anybody's negligence. On the other hand, the department has been trying its best to finish the work quickly, but even with ordinary speed this could not be finished within a few months.

Muhammadan District Inspectors of Schools.

*46. **Maulvi SYED ABDUR RAUF:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state how many Muhammadan District Inspectors of Schools are there in the Province of Bengal?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether there is any Muhammadan District Inspector of Schools in the Presidency Division?

(*c*) If the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, what action, if any, are the Government proposing to take in the matter?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state how many District Inspectors of Schools have been recruited directly?

(*e*) How many of them are Muhammadans?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of EDUCATION (the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruf Hosain, Khan Bahadur): (*a*) Nine.

(*b*) Yes, two. One is now acting as Assistant Inspector of Schools for Muhammadan Education, and the other as a Second Inspector of Schools, Presidency Division.

(*c*) In view of the reply to (*b*), this question does not arise.

(*d*) None.

(*e*) In view of the reply to (*d*), this question does not arise.

Settlement Office and the Settlement Officer's house at Khulna.

*47. **Srijut NAGENDRA NATH SEN:** (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the Settlement Office and the Settlement Officer's house at Khulna were constructed out of Settlement funds?

(*b*) Is it a fact that these buildings are now being occupied by the General Departments of the Government (Engineering, Police and Income-Tax)?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of REVENUE (the Hon'ble Maharaja Kshaunish Chandra Ray Bahadur, of Nadia): (a) The money for the buildings was allotted in the Settlement Budget, but no part of it was recovered from private parties so that Government bore the entire cost.

(b) Yes.

Scholarship examination for girls of the lower and upper primary classes.

*48. **Raja BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA Bahadur, of Nashipur:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the girls of well-to-do people are not allowed to appear in the Scholarship examination for lower primary and upper primary classes?

(b) If so, what are the reasons for debarring girls from such encouragement?

(c) From what date has this restriction been enforced?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (a) No.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

Inoculators of cholera vaccine.

*49. **Raja BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA Bahadur, of Nashipur:** (a) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the inoculators of cholera vaccine do not sterilise the needle of the syringe used for the purpose nor do they take any antiseptic precaution before injection?

(b) Is it a fact that this practice of non-sterilising the needle before its application is regarded scientifically as dangerous?

(c) If the answer to (a) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state why they are allowed to do so?

(d) If the inoculators do sterilise the needle before its use, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state what instructions have been issued to them and what articles have been supplied to them from the department for the purpose?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (a) These inoculators are employed by local authorities whose duty is to provide them with equipment. Government have no information if any

inoculators in any particular locality, acting against Government circular, do not sterilise the needle of the syringe nor take any antiseptic precaution as stated in the question, but Government have no reason to assume that they do so, for in the circulars of the Director of Public Health specific and definite instructions have been issued on these points, and local authorities have been requested to employ only qualified medical practitioners and have been warned against employing vaccinators and other unqualified persons. Any specific information about this unscientific practice should be immediately reported to the local authorities and to the Department of Public Health.

(*b*) Yes.

(*c*) Does not arise.

(*d*) Copies of Director of Public Health's Circulars Nos. 43E. of 6th May, 1927, and 45E. of 20th May, 1927, are laid on the Library table. Only vaccine and no other articles are supplied by the Department of Public Health.

Unstarred Questions

(answers to which were laid on the table).

Scarcity in certain thanas in the Balurghat subdivision.

35. Maulvi KADER BAKSH: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Revenue be pleased to state the number of families affected by scarcity in each of the thanas of—

(*i*) Patnitola,

(*ii*) Porsha,

(*iii*) Dhamoirhat,

(*iv*) Gangarampur, and

(*v*) Tapan,

in the Balurghat subdivision?

(*b*) Is the Hon'ble Member aware that several persons near Sapahar in Porsha thana have not been able to thatch their houses for want of straw and are undergoing extreme hardship during this cold weather?

The Hon'ble Maharaja KSHAUNISH CHANDRA RAY Bahadur, of Nadia: (*a*) About 20,000 families have been affected more or less. Separate figures are not available.

(*b*) No.

Malaria and kala-azar in areas affected by Magrahat Drainage Scheme.

36. Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state whether it is a fact that the incidence of malaria and kala-azar has increased in the areas affected by the Magrahat Sanitary Drainage Scheme since the completion of the said scheme?

(*b*) If so, will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to lay on the table a comparative statement showing the incidence of malaria and kala-azar in the above areas—

(*i*) before the inception of the Magrahat Sanitary Drainage Scheme; and

(*ii*) after the completion of the said scheme?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) and (*b*) A statement is laid on the table.

Statement referred to in the answer to unstarred question No. 36, showing fever and total deaths of the Magrahat Thana and the fever index of the Magrahat Charitable Dispensary.

Years.	Magrahat Police-station.		Ratio per cent. of malaria cases treated in Magrahat Charitable Dispensary.	Kala-azar mortality rate.	Remarks.
	Fever mortality rate.	Total mortality rate.			
Before the inception of the Magrahat Sanitary Drainage Scheme.					
1900 ..	16·6	25·1	Not available.	Not available.	(The scheme completed in June 1908.)
1901 ..	14·2	20·7			
1902 ..	17·7	23·5			
1903 ..	22·4	43·1			
1904 ..	27·3	40·5			
1905 ..	19·3	29·8			
1906 ..	12·7	21·9			
1907 ..	13·1	27·2	28·4		
1908 ..	11·7	21·7	31·6		
1909 ..	9·8	16·5	32·9		

Years.	Magrahat police-station.		Ratio per cent. of malaria cases treated in Magrahat Charitable Dispensary.	Kala-azar mortality rate.	Remarks.
	Fever mortality rate.	Total mortality rate.			
After the completion of the Magrahat Sanitary Drainage Scheme.					
1910 ..	9·8	19·0	36·6	Not available.	
1911 ..	10·4	22·0	15·3		
1912 ..	13·0	32·0	12·1		
1913 ..	11·9	20·5	10·0		
1914 ..	13·0	23·4	9·0		
1915 ..	13·0	27·9	9·9		
1916 ..	13·0	22·8	9·7		
1917 ..	11·0	17·7	8·4		
1918 ..	17·5	24·5	11·8		
1919 ..	16·6	30·1	18·0		
1920 ..	29·2	39·8	34·1		
1921 ..	22·7	31·8	41·7		
1922 ..	16·9	23·7	39·4		
1923 ..	14·6	19·1	29·1	·02	
1924 ..	19·1	24·4	34·2	·3	
1925 ..	17·7	23·7	33·7	2·8	
1926 ..	13·8	22·0	32·9	2·5	

Medical inspection of boys in schools and colleges.

37. Babu AMULYA CHANDRA DATTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Education be pleased to state whether there are any, and if so, what, arrangements for the medical inspection of boys in Government and private schools and colleges in the Presidency?

(*b*) If there be no such arrangements, are the Government considering the desirability of introducing immediately such medical inspection in all schools and colleges of the Presidency?

The Hon'ble Nawab MUSHARRUF HOSAIN, Khan Bahadur: (*a*) The question of medical inspection of school children has for some time engaged the attention of the department. Some work is also being done by the University, *e.g.*, the Students' Welfare Committee. Health officers attached to local bodies occasionally conduct such inspections at mufassal centres.

(*b*) The Department of Local Self-Government (Public Health) have worked out a scheme of medical inspection of boys in secondary

schools in Calcutta which they propose to give effect to shortly. There is also a scheme for the medical examination of the students of the Rajshahi College which awaits allotment of funds in the Budget for 1928-29.

The department is fully alive to the importance of the problem and a scheme for periodical health examination of boys in all Government and aided high English schools is awaiting the provision of funds.

Venereal diseases.

38. Babu AMULYA CHANDRA DATTA: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Public Health) be pleased to state whether the Government have taken any steps to tackle the problem of venereal diseases in this Presidency?

(*b*) If no step has been taken, are the Government considering the desirability of adopting and introducing, at least in Calcutta, the venereal diseases scheme of the Ministry of Health of Great Britain so far as it relates to establishment of venereal diseases clinics where free modern treatment is available to all?

MINISTER in charge of DEPARTMENT of LOCAL SELF-GOVERNMENT (PUBLIC HEALTH) (the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder Mitter): (*a*) Yes, by giving free treatment in Government hospitals.

(*b*) This does not strictly arise. It may, however, be mentioned that Government have under consideration a report recently received from the Delegation of the British Social Hygiene which visited Bengal last cold weather. The desirability of giving effect to the Delegation's recommendations will be duly considered and such measures will be taken as are advocated by Government's medical advisers and as financial considerations allow.

Mr. F. E. JAMES: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Social Hygiene Council formed as a result of the visit of the delegation from England last winter has been able to make any progress; and, if so, what?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: Personally, I have no information yet. The report of the delegation is under consideration, but as no new schemes can be useful before September next, the matter is still under consideration. On this specific point we have no information.

Pollution of the river Hooghly.

38. Babu AMULYA CHANDRA DATTA: Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government (Public Health) be pleased to state what steps have hitherto been taken by the Government to remove the nuisance caused by the pollution of the river Hooghly by the effluent discharges of the septic tanks of the mill areas on either side of the river?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: Arrangements have been made by the mills for proper sterilization of the effluent before final discharge. These arrangements are inspected periodically by Government agency. Government also appointed a Committee to inquire into the whole question of pollution of the river Hooghly.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state when the Committee was appointed by Government to inquire into the whole question?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: The Committee was apointed about 2 or 3 years ago, with a non-official Chairman. They held two or three meetings, and did not meet again, although the Chairman was written to more than once.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Will the Hon'ble Minister be pleased to state whether the Committee submitted any report at all?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: It is obvious from my last answer. The Committee, far from reporting, has not yet finished its work.

Contribution to local bodies towards the pay of Sanitary Inspectors of Municipalities.

40. Babu SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government be pleased to state the amount given to local bodies as contribution towards the remuneration of the Sanitary Inspectors?

(*b*) Which of the municipalities receive this help?

(*c*) Are the Government considering the desirability of extending this privilege to other municipalities as well?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) The amounts given as contribution to local bodies towards the pay of Sanitary Inspectors of municipalities during the years 1925-26, 1926-27

and the current year up to date are Rs. 6,568, Rs. 9,349 and Rs. 7,360 respectively. The figures are approximate, as actual figures are not available.

(*b*) A list of municipalities which received Government grants during the years 1925-26, 1926-27 and 1927-28 is laid on the table.

(*c*) Each application for assistance is considered on its merits—the criterion adopted being that assistance is offered only in cases where the municipality concerned is really unable to bear the expenditure from causes beyond its own control.

List of municipalities referred to in the answer to clause (b) of unstarred question No. 40, receiving Government grants during—

1925-26—

Burdwan Division: (1) Raniganj, (2) Sonamukhi, (3) Midnapore and (4) Tamluk.

Presidency Division: (5) Halisahar, (6) Baruipur, (7) Barasat (8) Berhampore, (9) Murshidabad and (10) Jangipur.

Dacca Division: (11) Netrokona, (12) Faridpur, (13) Jhalakati and (14) Pirojpur.

Chittagong Division: (15) Noakhali.

1926-27—

Burdwan Division: (1) Raniganj, (2) Sonamukhi, (3) Midnapore and (4) Tamluk.

Presidency Division: (5) Halisahar, (6) Baruipur, (7) Barrackpore, (8) Berhampore, (9) Murshidabad, (10) Jangipur and (11) Santipur.

Dacca Division: (12) Netrokona, (13) Faridpur, (14) Jhalakati and (15) Pirojpur.

Chittagong Division: (16) Noakhali.

Rajshahi Division: (17) Nator, (18) Rangpur and (19) English Bazar.

1927-28 (up to 31st January, 1928)—

Burdwan Division: (1) Sonamukhi and (2) Tamluk.

Presidency Division: (3) Baruipur, (4) Barrackpore, (5) Berhampore, (6) Murshidabad and (7) Jangipur.

Dacca Division: (8) Netrokona, (9) Faridpur, (10) Jhalakati and (11) Pirojpur.

Chittagong Division: (12) Noakhali.

Rajshahi Division: (13) Nator and (14) Rangpur.

Ferry service between Noakhali and Sandwip.

41. Babu SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Minister in charge of the Department of Local Self-Government aware that recently there have been cases of country boats foundering in the ferry service between Noakhali and Sandwip?

(*b*) What steps, if any, do the Government propose to take in the matter?

(*c*) Have the Government considered the advisability of asking some steamer companies to ply between Noakhali and Feni as was done in previous years?

The Hon'ble Sir PROVASH CHUNDER MITTER: (*a*) Government are not aware of any recent cases. There were accidents on this ferry service involving loss of life both in 1925 and 1926.

(*b*) and (*c*) The matter was under correspondence between the local officers, the District Board and the steamer company but the terms on which the company would run such a service are prohibitive. The District Board has already considered the advisability of such a service.

Khulna-Bagerhat Light Railway.

42. Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur: (*a*) Will the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Department of Public Works (Railways) be pleased to state whether any steps have been taken for the extension of the Khulna-Bagerhat Light Railway?

(*b*) If the answer to (*a*) is in the affirmative, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state their decision on the proposed extension?

(*c*) If no steps have yet been taken, will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state the reasons therefor?

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of PUBLIC WORKS (RAILWAYS) (the Hon'ble Mr. A. Marr): (*a*), (*b*) and (*c*) The Khulna-Bagerhat line is the property of a private company and this Government have no information of its intentions regarding the proposed extension.

Disposal of dead bodies after the inquests of the Coroner of Calcutta.

43. Babu SATYENDRA CHANDRA GHOSH MAULIK: (*a*) Is the Hon'ble Member in charge of the Political Department aware of

hardships caused to the relations of deceased persons on whose bodies inquests are held by the present Coroner of Calcutta, in getting the bodies for disposal in a reasonable time?

(*b*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a statement showing during the last 4 months—

(*i*) the date and hour of the death of deceased persons; and

(*ii*) the date and hour of the bodies being viewed by the present Coroner of Calcutta and the jury?

(*c*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to lay on the table a similar statement showing the time taken during Mr. Dobbin's tenure of office for handing over the bodies to the relations of deceased persons for disposal?

(*d*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state if it is a fact that—

(*i*) whenever the present Coroner is absent from duty, he is allowed to appoint a Deputy in his place, and

(*ii*) during Mr. Dobbin's time an acting appointment of Coroner was made whenever Mr. Dobbin went on leave?

(*e*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state what are the legal or medical qualifications of the Deputy Coroner of Calcutta?

(*f*) Will the Hon'ble Member be pleased to state whether during Mr. Dobbin's tenure of office as Coroner any appointment of permanent Deputy Coroner was made?

MEMBER in charge of POLITICAL DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): (*a*) No complaints of this nature have been received either by Government or by the Coroner.

(*b*) and (*c*) Statements are laid on the table.

(*d*) (*i*) A Deputy Coroner was appointed in 1924 under section 38 of the Coroner's Act (IV of 1871). He acts for the Coroner when the latter is ill or absent for any lawful and reasonable cause.

(*ii*) A Deputy Coroner was appointed in 1908 and presumably acted in the absence of Mr. Dobbin.

(*e*) He is a Presidency Magistrate of six years standing.

(*f*) Yes.

Statement referred to in the answer to clause (b) of unstarred question No. 43.

Inquest Nos. (1927).	Date and hour of death.	When intimation of death received.	Body viewed by the jury at.—
301	4-30 A.M.—4th September 1927.	7-30 P.M.—4th September 1927.	11-30 A.M.—6th September 1927.
302	....	9-30 A.M.—5th September 1927.	11-30 A.M.—6th September 1927.
303	7 P.M.—4th September 1927.	11-30 A.M.—6th September 1927.	11-30 A.M.—6th September 1927.
304	4-30 P.M.—7th September 1927.	8-30 A.M.—8th September 1927.	11-30 A.M.—10th September 1927.
305	P.M.—7th September 1927.	11 A.M.—8th September 1927.	11-30 A.M.—10th September 1927.
306	8-30 P.M.—9th September 1927.	6-30 A.M.—10th September 1927.	11-30 A.M.—10th September 1927.
307	7-30 P.M.—7th September 1927.	....	11-30 A.M.—10th September 1927.
308	10th September 1927.	8-40 A.M.—11th September 1927.	3-20 P.M.—12th September 1927.
309	9-30 P.M.—10th September 1927.	12 noon—11th September 1927.	3-20 P.M.—12th September 1927.
310	A.M.—11th September 1927.	5 P.M.—11th September 1927.	3-20 P.M.—12th September 1927.
311	....	....	3-20 P.M.—12th September 1927.
312	4 P.M.—13th September 1927.	8 A.M.—14th September 1927.	3-30 P.M.—15th September 1927.
313	4-30 P.M.—15th September 1927.	10 A.M.—16th September 1927.	11 A.M.—17th September 1927.
314	....	A.M.—17th September 1927.	11 A.M.—17th September 1927.
315	....	10-45 A.M.—17th September 1927.	11 A.M.—17th September 1927.
316	9-40 A.M.—17th September 1927.	9 A.M.—18th September 1927.	11 A.M.—17th September 1927.
317	A.M.—19th September 1927.	3-35 P.M.—19th September 1927.	11 A.M.—21st September 1927.
318	....	2-45 P.M.—20th September 1927.	11 A.M.—21st September 1927.
319	....	4-25 P.M.—20th September 1927.	11 A.M.—21st September 1927.
320	11 A.M.—20th September 1927.	10-30 A.M.—21st September 1927.	11 A.M.—21st September 1927.
321	10-30 A.M.—21st September 1927.	8-30 P.M.—21st September 1927.	2 P.M.—22nd September 1927.
322	4 P.M.—21st September 1927.	9-30 A.M.—22nd September 1927.	2 P.M.—22nd September 1927.
323	8 A.M.—22nd September 1927.	12 noon—22nd September 1927.	2 P.M.—22nd September 1927.
324	4-45 P.M.—22nd September 1927.	10-45 P.M.—22nd September 1927.	11-30 A.M.—25th September 1927.
325	8-30 P.M.—22nd September 1927.	10-45 A.M.—24th September 1927.	11-30 A.M.—25th September 1927.
326	7-30 P.M.—22nd September 1927.	12 noon—24th September 1927.	11-30 A.M.—25th September 1927.

[illegible] (1927).	Date and hour of death.	When intimation of death received.	Body viewed by the jury at.—
[illegible]	6-30 A.M.—25th September 1927.	6-25 P.M.—25th September 1927.	11-30 A.M.—25th September 1927.
[illegible]	A.M.—29th September 1927.	3-45 P.M.—29th September 1927.	12-45 P.M.—30th September 1927.
[illegible]	A.M.—29th September 1927.	7 P.M.—29th September 1927.	12-45 P.M.—30th September 1927.
330	7-30 P.M.—2nd October 1927	6 A.M.—3rd October 1927	11 A.M.—4th October 1927
331	12-15 P.M.—4th October 1927	8 A.M.—5th October 1927	11 A.M.—6th October 1927
332	2 P.M.—6th October 1927	6 P.M.—6th October 1927	11 A.M.—8th October 1927
333	8-30 P.M.—7th October 1927	8 A.M.—8th October 1927	11 A.M.—8th October 1927
334	2 A.M.—8th October 1927	11-20 A.M.—8th October 1927	11 A.M.—8th October 1927
335	1-30 P.M.—9th October 1927	9-20 A.M.—10th October 1927.	11 A.M.—11th October 1927.
336	P.M.—11th October 1927	11-15 P.M.—11th October 1927.	11 A.M.—13th October 1927.
337	10-50 P.M.—11th October 1927	4-30 P.M.—12th October 1927.	11 A.M.—13th October 1927.
338	6 A.M.—13th October 1927	11-35 A.M.—13th October 1927.	12 noon—15th October 1927.
339	14th October 1927	11-30 A.M.—14th October 1927.	12 noon—15th October 1927.
340	12-30 A.M.—14th October 1927	2-15 P.M.—14th October 1927.	12 noon—15th October 1927.
341	P.M.—13th October 1927	12-30 P.M.—14th October 1927.	12 noon—15th October 1927.
342	11 A.M.—15th October 1927	9-30 P.M.—15th October 1927.	12-30 P.M.—17th October 1927.
343	15th October 1927	8-35 A.M.—16th October 1927.	12-30 P.M.—17th October 1927.
344	6-40 P.M.—15th October 1927	4-40 P.M.—16th October 1927.	12-30 P.M.—17th October 1927.
345	10-45 P.M.—16th October 1927	1-30 P.M.—18th October 1927.	1 P.M.—19th October 1927.
346	3 P.M.—18th October 1927	7-50 A.M.—19th October 1927.	1 P.M.—19th October 1927.
347	....	10 A.M.—19th October 1927.	1 P.M.—19th October 1927.
348 (same as 313).	....	....	....
349	9-30 A.M.—19th October 1927	5-50 P.M.—19th October 1927.	1 P.M.—19th October 1927.
350	2-30 P.M.—20th October 1927	11-20 A.M.—21st October 1927.	1 P.M.—21st October 1927.
351	6-30 A.M.—22nd October 1927	10-30 P.M.—22nd October 1927.	11 A.M.—24th October 1927.
352	....	8-45 P.M.—24th October 1927.	11 A.M.—24th October 1927.
353	2 P.M.—24th October 1927	9-20 A.M.—25th October 1927.	2 P.M.—26th October 1927.
354	A.M.—26th October 1927	7-30 P.M.—26th October 1927.	2 P.M.—26th October 1927.
355	7-35 P.M.—27th October 1927	7-50 A.M.—28th October 1927.	2 P.M.—28th October 1927.
356	....	9-25 A.M.—28th October 1927.	2 P.M.—28th October 1927.

Inquest Nos. (1927).	Date and hour of death.	When intimation of death received.	Body viewed by the jury at—
357	10 A.M.—29th October 1927	2 P.M.—29th October 1927.	2 P.M.—31st October 1927.
358	9 P.M.—2nd November 1927.	11-45 A.M.—3rd November 1927.	11-30 A.M.—4th November 1927.
359	1 P.M.—3rd November 1927.	10 A.M.—4th November 1927.	11-30 A.M.—4th November 1927.
360	P.M.—4th November 1927.	10 P.M.—4th November 1927.	11-30 A.M.—7th November 1927.
361	2-30 P.M.—5th November 1927.	9-30 P.M.—5th November 1927.	11-30 A.M.—7th November 1927.
362	A.M.—6th November 1927.	11 A.M.—6th November 1927.	11-30 A.M.—7th November 1927.
363	A.M.—6th November 1927.	1 P.M.—6th November 1927.	11-30 A.M.—7th November 1927.
364	9-30 P.M.—6th November 1927.	8-35 A.M.—7th November 1927.	11-30 A.M.—7th November 1927.
365	P.M.—9th November 1927.	12 noon—9th November 1927.	2 P.M.—11th November 1927.
366	A.M.—9th November 1927.	9-30 A.M.—10th November 1927.	2 P.M.—11th November 1927.
367	1 P.M.—10th November 1927.	9-30 P.M.—10th November 1927.	2 P.M.—11th November 1927.
368	8-45 P.M.—10th November 1927.	11 P.M.—11th November 1927.	2 P.M.—11th November 1927.
369	3-30 P.M.—11th November 1927.	10-10 P.M.—11th November 1927.	2 P.M.—12th November 1927.
370	P.M.—11th November 1927.	6-45 A.M.—12th November 1927.	2 P.M.—12th November 1927.
371	P.M.—11th November 1927.	6-20 A.M.—12th November 1927.	2 P.M.—12th November 1927.
372	P.M.—12th November 1927.	A.M.—13th November 1927.	11 A.M.—15th November 1927.
373	P.M.—12th November 1927.	11-30 A.M.—13th November 1927.	11 A.M.—15th November 1927.
374	P.M.—12th November 1927.	6-30 P.M.—13th November 1927.	11 A.M.—15th November 1927.
375	10-10 P.M.—15th November 1927.	11-15 A.M.—16th November 1927.	11 A.M.—18th November 1927.
376	2-15 A.M.—17th November 1927.	3 P.M.—17th November 1927.	11 A.M.—18th November 1927.
377	5-30 A.M.—17th November 1927.	8-15 P.M.—17th November 1927.	11 A.M.—18th November 1927.
378	5-30 A.M.—19th November 1927.	10 A.M.—20th November 1927.	2 P.M.—22nd November 1927.
379	6-30 A.M.—21st November 1927.	7-45 A.M.—22nd November 1927.	2 P.M.—22nd November 1927.
380	11 P.M.—21st November 1927.	10-30 A.M.—22nd November 1927.	2 P.M.—22nd November 1927.
381	....	3 P.M.—23rd November 1927.	2 P.M.—25th November 1927.
382	12-20 A.M.—25th November 1927.	2-15 P.M.—25th November 1927.	11 A.M.—28th November 1927.
383	11 A.M.—27th November 1927.	1-30 P.M.—27th November 1927.	11 A.M.—29th November 1927.
384	3 A.M.—27th November 1927.	9 P.M.—27th November 1927.	11 A.M.—29th November 1927.

Inquest No. (1927).	Date and hour of death.	When intimation of death received.	Body viewed by the jury at—
[illegible]	5-30 A.M.—28th November 1927.	4 P.M.—28th November 1927.	11 A.M.—29th November 1927.
[illegible]	P.M.—29th November 1927.	9 A.M.—30th November 1927.	11 A.M.—2nd December 1927.
[illegible]	11-30 P.M.—30th November 1927.	8-20 A.M.—1st December 1927.	11 A.M.—2nd December 1927.
[illegible]	A.M.—3rd December 1927.	11 A.M.—4th December 1927.	11 A.M.—6th December 1927.
[illegible]	A.M.—4th December 1927.	1-30 P.M.—5th December 1927.	11 A.M.—6th December 1927.
390	P.M.—4th December 1927.	10 A.M.—6th December 1927.	11 A.M.—6th December 1927.
391	11 P.M.—4th December 1927.	1-30 P.M.—5th December 1927.	11 A.M.—6th December 1927.
392	11-30 A.M.—4th December 1927.	6-15 P.M.—4th December 1927.	11 A.M.—6th December 1927.
393 to 411.	A.M.—7th December 1927.	1-30 P.M.—8th December 1927.	1 P.M.—9th December 1927.
412	3 P.M.—8th December 1927.	12-15 A.M.—9th December 1927.	1 P.M.—9th December 1927.
413	9 P.M.—8th December 1927.	8-30 A.M.—10th December 1927.	1 P.M.—9th December 1927.
414	10-40 P.M.—10th December 1927.	8 A.M.—11th December 1927.	11-30 A.M.—12th December 1927.
415	4 P.M.—10th December 1927.	9-15 A.M.—11th December 1927.	11-30 A.M.—12th December 1927.
416	A.M.—11th December 1927.	10 P.M.—11th December 1927.	11-30 A.M.—12th December 1927.
417	5-30 A.M.—11th December 1927.	4-30 P.M.—11th December 1927.	11-30 A.M.—12th December 1927.
418	9-40 P.M.—10th December 1927.	4-30 P.M.—11th December 1927.	11-30 A.M.—12th December 1927.
419	2-25 A.M.—11th December 1927.	4-30 P.M.—11th December 1927.	11-30 A.M.—12th December 1927.
420	2 P.M.—11th December 1927.	4-30 P.M.—11th December 1927.	11-30 A.M.—12th December 1927.
421	10-25 A.M.—12th December 1927.	9-30 A.M.—13th December 1927.	11-30 A.M.—12th December 1927.
422	8 P.M.—12th December 1927.	11-40 A.M.—13th December 1927.	12 noon—13th December 1927.
423	P.M.—14th December 1927.	8-30 A.M.—15th December 1927.	4-30 P.M.—15th December 1927.
424	A.M.—15th December 1927.	12-30 P.M.—15th December 1927.	4-30 P.M.—15th December 1927.
425	0 A.M.—17th December 1927.	4 P.M.—17th December 1927.	11 A.M.—20th December 1927.
426	5 A.M.—20th December 1927.	11-15 A.M.—20th December 1927.	1-30 P.M.—23rd December 1927.
427	4-30 A.M.—20th December 1927.	7-45 P.M.—20th December 1927.	1-30 P.M.—23rd December 1927.
428	8 A.M.—22nd December 1927.	1-20 P.M.—22nd December 1927.	1-30 P.M.—23rd December 1927.
429	A.M.—24th December 1927.	4-15 P.M.—24th December 1927.	11-30 A.M.—27th December 1927.
430	P.M.—25th December 1927.	10-10 P.M.—25th December 1927.	11-30 A.M.—27th December 1927.

Inquest Nos. (1927).	Date and hour of death.	When intimation of death received.	Body viewed by the jury at.—
431	11 P.M.—28th December 1927.	9-30 A.M.—29th December 1927.	6-30 P.M.—29th December 1927.
432	10 P.M.—28th December 1927.	9-30 A.M.—29th December 1927.	6-30 P.M.—29th December 1927.
433	A.M.—28th December 1927.	10-30 A.M.—29th December 1927.	6-30 P.M.—29th December 1927.
434	10-30 P.M.—28th December 1927.	11-30 A.M.—29th December 1927.	6-30 P.M.—29th December 1927.
435	P.M.—28th December 1927.	10-30 A.M.—29th December 1927.	6-30 P.M.—29th December 1927.
436	A.M.—30th December 1927.	2 P.M.—30th December 1927.	11-30 A.M.—31st December 1927.
437	7-30 A.M.—30th December 1927.	11-30 A.M.—30th December 1927.	11-30 A.M.—31st December 1927.
438	12-10 P.M.—30th December 1927.	12-10 A.M.—31st December 1927.	11-30 A.M.—31st December 1927.

Statement referred to in the answer to clause (c) of unstarred question No. 43.

Inquest Nos. (1923).	Date and hour of death.	When intimation of death received.	Body viewed by the jury at.—
93	6-10 P.M.—3rd May 1923 ..	9 A.M.—4th May 1923 ..	2-15 P.M.—4th May 1923.
94	1-50 P.M.—8th May 1923 ..	12-10 P.M.—9th May 1923 ..	4-15 P.M.—9th May 1923.
95	12-30 A.M.—12th May 1923 ..	12-50 P.M.—12th May 1923..	10-30 A.M.—13th May 1923.
96	8-25 A.M.—12th May 1923 ..	6 P.M.—12th May 1923	10-30 A.M.—13th May 1923.
97	9-45 P.M.—12th May 1923 ..	8 P.M.—13th May 1923	10-30 A.M.—13th May 1923.
98	2-30 P.M.—20th May 1923 ..	1 P.M.—20th May 1923	10-30 A.M.—21st May 1923.
99	5-45 P.M.—20th May 1923 ..	10 A.M.—21st May 1923	10-30 A.M.—21st May 1923.
100	9-30 A.M.—22nd May 1923 ..	2 P.M.—22nd May 1923	4-45 P.M.—23rd May 1923.
101	4-45 A.M.—25th May 1923 ..	12-50 P.M.—25th May 1923	4-45 P.M.—25th May 1923.
102	2 A.M.—25th May 1923 ..	3 P.M.—25th May 1923	4-45 P.M.—25th May 1923.
103	10-50 P.M.—26th May 1923 ..	1 P.M.—27th May 1923	4-45 P.M.—28th May 1923.
104	8-30 P.M.—29th May 1923 ..	7-50 A.M.—30th May 1923	4-45 P.M.—30th May 1923.
105	9 A.M.—29th May 1923 ..	9-20 P.M.—29th May 1923	4-45 P.M.—30th May 1923.
106	4-25 P.M.—30th May 1923 ..	11-10 P.M.—30th May 1923	4-45 P.M.—31st May 1923.
107	P.M.—30th May 1923 ..	11-20 P.M.—31st May 1923	4-45 P.M.—31st May 1923.
108	8 P.M.—30th May 1923 ..	11-20 A.M.—31st May 1923	4-45 P.M.—31st May 1923.
109	A.M.—1st June 1923 ..	12-30 P.M.—1st June 1923 ..	4-30 P.M.—1st June 1923.
110	7-10 A.M.—1st June 1923 ..	9-15 A.M.—2nd June 1923	4-30 P.M.—1st June 1923.
111	8-15 A.M.—2nd June 1923 ..	9 A.M.—3rd June 1923 ..	10-30 A.M.—4th June 1923.
112	8 P.M.—2nd June 1923 ..	10-45 A.M.—3rd June 1923 ..	10-30 A.M.—4th June 1923.
113	11-15 P.M.—3rd June 1923 ..	10 A.M.—4th June 1923. ..	10-30 A.M.—4th June 1923.
114	P.M.—4th June 1923 ..	10-30 A.M.—5th June 1923 ..	4-45 P.M.—5th June 1923.
115	A.M.—6th June 1923 ..	12-30 P.M.—6th June 1923 ..	4-45 P.M.—6th June 1923.
116	8 A.M.—6th June 1923 ..	4-30 P.M.—6th June 1923 ..	4-45 P.M.—6th June 1923.

Number.	Date and hour of death.	When intimation of death received.	Body viewed by the jury at—
117	4-35 A.M.—6th June 1923 ..	6-35 P.M.—6th June 1923 ..	4-45 P.M.—6th June 1923.
118	1-30 P.M.—7th June 1923 ..	10-20 A.M.—8th June 1923 ..	4-45 P.M.—8th June 1923.
119	2-30 P.M.—9th June 1923 ..	10-30 A.M.—10th June 1923	10-30 A.M.—11th June 1923.
120	A.M.—11th June 1923 ..	6-30 P.M.—11th June 1923	10-30 A.M.—11th June 1923.
121	1 P.M.—12th June 1923 ..	11-30 P.M.—12th June 1923	4-45 P.M.—13th June 1923.
122	8 P.M.—13th June 1923 ..	9-50 A.M.—14th June 1923	4-45 P.M.—14th June 1923.
123	7-15 A.M.—14th June 1923 ..	12-30 P.M.—14th June 1923	4-45 P.M.—14th June 1923.
124	1-40 A.M.—15th June 1923 ..	10-15 A.M.—15th June 1923	4-45 P.M.—15th June 1923.
125	P.M.—16th June 1923 ..	10-30 A.M.—17th June 1923	10-30 A.M.—18th June 1923.
126	A.M.—17th June 1923 ..	6 P.M.—17th June 1923	4-30 P.M.—18th June 1923.
127	1-20 P.M.—17th June 1923 ..	1 P.M.—18th June 1923	4-45 P.M.—18th June 1923.
128	5-45 P.M.—17th June 1923 ..	12-30 A.M.—19th June 1923	10-30 A.M.—18th June 1923.
129	10 P.M.—21st June 1923 ..	9 A.M.—22nd June 1923	4-30 P.M.—22nd June 1923.
130	12-40 A.M.—24th June 1923 ..	4-20 P.M.—24th June 1923	4-45 P.M.—25th June 1923.
131	A.M.—24th June 1923 ..	3-15 P.M.—25th June 1923	4-45 P.M.—25th June 1923.
132	1-30 A.M.—26th June 1923 ..	1-45 P.M.—26th June 1923	5-45 P.M.—26th June 1923.
133	P.M.—26th June 1923 ..	8 P.M.—27th June 1923	5-45 P.M.—26th June 1923.
134	8 A.M.—27th June 1923 ..	2-30 P.M.—27th June 1923 ..	4-45 P.M.—28th June 1923.
135	—28th June 1923 ..	9-15 P.M.—28th June 1923	4-45 P.M.—28th June 1923.
136	1-30 P.M.—30th June 1923 ..	9-15 P.M.—30th June 1923	5 P.M.—1st July 1923.
137	A.M.—1st July 1923 ..	9-30 A.M.—1st July 1923 ..	5 P.M.—1st July 1923.
138	8 P.M.—1st July 1923 ..	10-15 A.M.—2nd July 1923 ..	4-45 P.M.—2nd July 1923.
139	7-40 A.M.—2nd July 1923 ..	12-30 P.M.—2nd July 1923 ..	4-45 P.M.—2nd July 1923.
140	1-25 P.M.—3rd July 1923 ..	11 A.M.—4th July 1923 ..	4-45 P.M.—4th July 1923.
141	1-10 P.M.—4th July 1923 ..	8-15 P.M.—4th July 1923 ..	4-45 P.M.—5th July 1923.
142	9 A.M.—5th July 1923 ..	4-20 P.M.—5th July 1923 ..	4-45 P.M.—5th July 1923.
143	1-30 A.M.—8th July 1923 ..	12-30 P.M.—8th July 1923 ..	10-30 A.M.—9th July 1923.
144	8-30 P.M.—9th July 1923 ..	11-30 A.M.—10th July 1923	4-15 P.M.—10th July 1923.
145	7-10 A.M.—10th July 1923 ..	3-35 P.M.—10th July 1923	4-15 P.M.—10th July 1923.
146	8-30 P.M.—11th July 1923 ..	8-15 A.M.—12th July 1923	4-45 P.M.—12th July 1923.
147	11-30 P.M.—11th July 1923 ..	8-15 A.M.—12th July 1923	4-45 P.M.—12th July 1923.
148	7 P.M.—11th July 1923 ..	10-40 A.M.—12th July 1923	4-45 P.M.—12th July 1923.
149	12 noon—13th July 1923 ..	8-30 A.M.—14th July 1923	1-30 P.M.—14th July 1923.
150	12 noon—13th July 1923 ..	8-30 A.M.—14th July 1923	1-30 P.M.—14th July 1923.
151	10-15 A.M.—14th July 1923 ..	8-45 A.M.—15th July 1923	10-15 A.M.—16th July 1923.
152	7 A.M.—15th July 1923 ..	12 noon—15th July 1923	10-15 A.M.—16th July 1923.
153	7 A.M.—16th July 1923 ..	1-50 P.M.—16th July 1923	4-45 P.M.—17th July 1923.
154	9-10 P.M.—18th July 1923 ..	9 A.M.—19th July 1923	4-45 P.M.—19th July 1923.
155	A.M.—19th July 1923 ..	1-30 P.M.—19th July 1923	4-45 P.M.—19th July 1923.
156	9 A.M.—20th July 1923 ..	1-45 P.M.—20th July 1923	1-30 P.M.—21st July 1923.
157	1 P.M.—20th July 1923 ..	9-15 A.M.—21st July 1923	1-30 P.M.—21st July 1923.
158	3 A.M.—21st July 1923 ..	10-30 A.M.—21st July 1923	1-30 P.M.—21st July 1923.

Inquest Nos. (1923).	Date and hour of death.	When intimation of death received.	Body viewed by the jury at—
159	12-30 A.M.—26th July 1923 ..	10-30 A.M.—26th July 1923	5-30 P.M.—26th July 1923.
160	9-30 P.M.—26th July 1923 ..	2-15 P.M.—27th July 1923	1-30 P.M.—28th July 1923.
161	8-15 P.M.—27th July 1923 ..	10-45 A.M.—28th July 1923	1-30 P.M.—28th July 1923.
162	3-20 A.M.—31st July 1923 ..	1-55 P.M.—31st July 1923	4-45 P.M.—31st July 1923.
163	3-35 P.M.—3rd August 1923 ..	6-20 P.M.—3rd August 1923	1-30 P.M.—4th August 1923.
164	—3rd August 1923 ..	8-45 P.M.—3rd August 1923	1-30 P.M.—4th August 1923.
165	—4th August 1923 ..	9-55 A.M.—4th August 1923	1-30 P.M.—4th August 1923.
166	10 P.M.—3rd August 1923 ..	6-20 P.M.—4th August 1923	4-45 P.M.—6th August 1923.
167	10-30 P.M.—6th August 1923 ..	10-30 A.M.—7th August 1923	4-45 P.M.—7th August 1923.
168	7 A.M.—7th August 1923 ..	11-30 A.M.—7th August 1923	4-45 P.M.—7th August 1923.
169	8 P.M.—7th August 1923 ..	11 A.M.—8th August 1923	4-45 P.M.—8th August 1923.
170	P.M.—8th August 1923 ..	11 A.M.—9th August 1923	4-45 P.M.—9th August 1923.
171		10-30 A.M.—15th August 1923	4-45 P.M.—15th August 1923.
172	P.M.—15th August 1923	10-15 A.M.—16th August 1923	4-45 P.M.—16th August 1923.
173	12 noon —15th August 1923	11 A.M.—16th August 1923	4-45 P.M.—16th August 1923.
174	P.M.—16th August 1923	10-45 A.M.—17th August 1923	4-45 P.M.—17th August 1923.
175	P.M.—17th August 1923	1-15 P.M.—18th August 1923	4-45 P.M.—20th August 1923.
176	11-30 A.M.—18th August 1923	4-45 P.M.—18th August 1923	4-45 P.M.—20th August 1923.
177	3-30 P.M.—18th August 1923	11 A.M.—19th August 1923	4-45 P.M.—20th August 1923.
178		12 noon —23rd August 1923	5-30 P.M.—23rd August 1923.
179	5-30 P.M.—22nd August 1923	2-50 P.M.—23rd August 1923	5-30 P.M.—23rd August 1923.
180	5 P.M.—24th August 1923	10 A.M.—25th August 1923	2 P.M.—25th August 1923.
181	1 A.M.—28th August 1923	12 noon —28th August 1923	4-45 P.M.—28th August 1923.
182	P.M.—29th August 1923 ..	10 A.M.—30th August 1923	4-45 P.M.—30th August 1923.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: Does this finish the list of questions admitted by you this session? I had sent in certain questions, but they do not appear on the list, and I understand that they were admitted by you because I did not receive any intimation to the contrary.

Mr. PRESIDENT: These are the answers that you have received up till now. The session is not over, you may have more later on.

Resolutions

(on matters of general public interest).

The discussion on the resolution regarding salary system for Linotype operators was then resumed.

3-15 P.M.

MEMBER in charge of DEPARTMENT of FINANCE (the Hon'ble Mr. A. Marr): To what I said yesterday on this resolution, I wish to add one more remark. There is a slight difference of opinion between

the mover and myself as regards the extent of the piece-work system. Since yesterday, I have obtained from office the London Scale of Prices, and this contains an agreement between the London Society of Compositors and the London Master Printers' Association and the Newspaper Proprietors' Association which lays down the whole scale of piece-work throughout all press work. The second part of this compilation repeats the agreement between the London Master Printers' Association and the London Society of Compositors and gives the complete list of prices at which, at the request of the compositors themselves, the piece-work system is carried out. I shall be glad to show the hon'ble member this book if he cares to see it.

Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI: It gave me a rude shock yesterday to witness the sad spectacle of a very thin House when I discussed the bread question of manual workers employed in the Government Press at Alipore. Indeed, the shock was still greater when responsible members kept purposely out in the lobby when it was my turn to speak in reply to the Hon'ble Finance Member who opposed my resolution. The Treasury Benches were not only empty, but no non-official member, with the exception of some of my Moslem friends, would give me a hearing, and whenever there was a discussion in this House about the grievances of poor raiyats or labouring classes or the depressed classes, members generally walked out or kept out. This persistent attitude on the part of the representatives of the people, backed by the salaried servants of the Crown, constitutes in my humble opinion the darkest chapters in the history of the democratic experiment which we are now going through. Instead of the poor Linotype operators' earnings if I had discussed the Presidency College or Bethune College affairs on the *Hartal* day, the House certainly would have been full, and there would have been a general scrambling of speech-making. However, the poor man in India must suffer until he can discriminate between friend and foe.

Sir, I am grateful to Maulvi Abdul Karim, Mr. M. Ashraf Ali Khan Chaudhuri and Mr. Mukerji for supporting my resolution yesterday. I am sorry that Mr. Travers opposed the motion. In reply to him, I would say that I have great respect for Mr. Norton, the Superintendent, who has done a lot of good things in the past for the press employees. The only fault I have to find with him, as I said yesterday, is that he could not countenance the idea of a Labour Union. This is wrong and should be strongly condemned. He must be informed in clear terms that the Labour Union was not only good for the workers, but also for the employees. Let him procure a copy of the report of the All-India Telegraph Union from my friend Mr. Barton, the Secretary, and ex-member of this Council. Let him peruse the remarks of successive Directors-General of Telegraph regarding the

good work that the Union was doing. Mr. Travers said that the piece system was a good thing; certainly so from the empolyer's point of view. Would he be surprised to hear that almost all the printing presses of Calcutta have given up the wonderful system as no good, even from the employer's point of view. I do not condemn the piece system in certain industries as, for example, coal, tea, and jute, where cost of production is a vital factor. The Hon'ble Finance Member defended the piece system on the ground that in all skilled trades in Europe and the United States of America that system prevailed. I am afraid, the analogy is not sound, for the simple reason that in most of these trades as, for example, the coal mining trade in England, there is such a thing as minimum wages or basic wages, below which wages cannot fall, however slack the trade is. My second point is that the rates of wages in the British printing trade for piece-work are six to seven times of that paid by Mr. Norton in Alipore. I have got a copy of the London Scale of Prices for compositors' work, issued by the London Society of Compositors (No. 7-9, St. Bride Street, Ludgate Circus). The contrast between the piece system as it actually works in London and in Calcutta would be vividly manifest from the fact that for composing a piece of royal octavo—size 26 ems by 46 ems—an English compositor earns in London Rs. 6-4, while his comrade in Calcutta will thank his stars if, after his work being subjected to various pruning processes by the supervising staff, he can get Re. 1-12. I am sorry the Hon'ble Member had not gone through the volumes of papers on the subject of piece-work. Had he done so, he would have been surprised to find that almost all the presses in Calcutta have given up the piece system. The East Indian Railway Press, the Eastern Bengal Railway Press, the "Statesman" Press, the "Englishman," Press, the "Forward" Press, the Calcutta Corporation Press, Thacker Spink & Co., the Caledonian Press, the Edinburgh Press, and Lall Chand & Co., have found the piece system no good from a commercial point of view, and some of them as, for example, the Calcutta Corporation Press, print the same kind of things—budget, statement, report, etc.—as the Government Press in Alipore. The real difficulty about the piece system is that the salaried hands, who supervise or supply materials, etc., do not play the game. In fact, the salaried supervisers gain nothing by promptness. In a colliery, where the poor Sonthal miners are ignorant and illiterate, the salaried supervision of the *Bhadralog* type are only to eager to help, because of the extra pieces they earn from the coal cutter whose coal tubs are measured for payment of wages. In the jute mill, there is piece system in the weaving shed only; there is a good *bundabust* between the salaried Babus and the weavers who co-operate splendidly for the sake of extra gain. In the press, however, conditions are different: The piece-hand compositor and the salaried supervisor belong to the *Bhadralog* class, and both

are educated, and hence there is no chance of the salaried man taking advantage of the piece system. The Hon'ble Member was wrong when he said that the demand for salary did not come from the Linotype operators. I hold a copy of the petition sent to Mr. Norton, signed by the 13 Linotype operators on the 13th of January, in which they complain about non-payment during leave, or any other gazetted or public holidays. They further state that all the Linotype operators in presses of Calcutta, Government or private, are paid on a salaried basis; but they are not. They, therefore, pray to be placed on the same system of pay. This petition is the complete answer to the Hon'ble Member's allegation. The Hon'ble Member spoke about the increased earnings of the piece-hands. This is not borne out by facts. In reply to starred question No. 75 in this Council, on the 14th December, 1927, the Hon'ble Member said: "It was noticed by the Piece-Workers Committee that the earnings of piece-workers were decreasing. Certain remedial measures were recommended, etc." Sir, I hold in my hand a statement of earnings of different Linotype operators from July to December, 1927. Take Hemanta K. Banick; he drew Rs. 170 in July and August, or an average of Rs. 85 per month. His earnings fell to Rs. 112 in December and January, or an average of Rs. 56. Take another case: Akshay Kumar Sen drew Rs. 99 in July and August, or an average of Rs. 49-8; his earnings fell to Rs. 68 in December and January, or an average of Rs. 34. Then Mr. S. M. Emmanuel, an Anglo-Indian gentleman, drew Rs. 100 in July and August, or an average of Rs. 50, and his earnings fell to Rs. 56 in December and January, or an average of Rs. 28. I am exceedingly sorry that the Hon'ble Member could not see his way to have this matter enquired into by a Committee, in view of convincing facts and figures I have placed before this House. I appeal to him once again for reconsideration. I would be only too pleased to place at his disposal my services, if he decides on a proper investigation. There is nothing to prevent him appointing a Departmental Committee and calling me, or the Secretary, or the President of the Press Employees Association as a witness.

The motion of Mr. K. C. Ray Chaudhuri was then put and a division taken, with the following result:—

AYES.

Acharjya Chaudhuri, Maharaja Shashi Kanta, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh.
Afzal, Maulvi Syed Muhammad.
Ahamad, Maulvi Kasiruddin.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.
Atiquliah, Mr. Syed Md.
Baksh, Maulvi Kader.
Banerjee, Babu Promotha Nath.
Bannerjee, Babu Jitendralal.
Choudhury, Maulvi Golam Mawla.
Choudhury, Maulvi Khorshed Alam.
Farequi, Khan Bahadur K. G. M.
Ghosh Maulik, Babu Satyendra Chandra.
Gofran, Maulvi Abdul.
Guha, Mr. P. N.
Haque, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Azizul.

Hussain, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed Maqbul.
Hussain, Maulvi Latafat.
James, Mr. F. E.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Kasem, Maulvi Abul.
Khan Chaudhuri, Mr. M. Ashraf Ali.
Khan, Khan Sahib Maulvi Muazzam Ali.
Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
McCluskie, Mr. E. T.
Nandy, Maharaj Kumar Sris Chandra.
Rahman, Maulvi Azizur.
Rahman, Maulvi Shamsur-.
Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur-.
Raikat, Mr. Prosanna Deb.
Rauf, Maulvi Syed Abdur.
Ray, Babu Nagendra Narayan.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Ray Chaudhuri, Mr. K. C.
Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Sattar, Khan Sahib Abdus.
Sattar, Mr. Abdool Razak Hajee Abdool.
Shah, Mr. Gholam Hossain.
Sinha, Raja Bahadur Bhupendra Narayan, of Nashipur.
Solaiman, Maulvi Muhammad.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.

NOES.

Barton, Mr. J. F.
Cassells, Mr. A.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari.
Cohen, Mr. D. J.
Cooper, Mr. C. G.
Dey, Mr. G. G.
Dowding, Mr. T. W.
Drummond, Mr. J. G.
Dutt, Mr. G. S.
Ghose, Mr. M. C.
Hosain, the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruf, Khan Bahadur.
Lindsay, Mr. J. H.
MacBean, Mr. J. A.
Marr, the Hon'ble Mr. A.
Mitter, the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder.
Moberly, the Hon'ble Mr. A. N.
Morgan, Mr. G.
Nelson, Mr. W. H.
Oaten, Mr. E. F.
Parrett, Mr. P.
Phelps, Mr. Trevor J.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Ray, the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra, of Nadia.
Reid, Mr. R. N.
Sachse, Mr. F. A.
Sen, Mr. Satish Chandra.
Skinner, Mr. S. A.
Stuart-Williams, Mr. S. C.
Tate, Major-General Godfrey.
Travers, Mr. W. L.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 41 and the Noes 31, the motion was carried.

Scale of pay of the Lower Division Assistants of the Bengal Secretariat.

3-30 P.M.

Mr. M. ASHRAF ALI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Mr. President, Sir, I beg to move that this Council recommends to the Government that the existing scale of pay of Lower Division Assistants of the Bengal Secretariat be raised to a time-scale of pay of Rs. 60 to Rs. 200 with a selection grade on Rs. 200—25—250, limited to 15 per cent. of the number of Lower Division Assistants in each department of the Secretariat.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: On a point of order, Sir: I was given to understand that the mover of this resolution would accept the amendment standing in my name. If this be the case, then should I not move the motion standing in my name?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Mr. Bannerjee, you will have your say later on.

Mr. M. ASHRAF ALI KHAN CHAUDHURI: Sir, in moving this resolution, I will try to marshal certain chief and salient features in logical sequence, to justify the scheme for the increase in pay and prospects of the Lower Division Assistants of the Bengal Secretariat.

Now, as everybody knows, there are two divisions—one is called the Upper Division, and the other the Lower Division as regards Assistants in the Secretariat. I shall first of all deal with the qualifications required of the Lower Division Assistants and how they are recruited. Lower Division Assistants are recruited by competitive examination which is held solely for that purpose, but although the minimum qualification is that of a matriculate, the academical qualifications of the candidates who appear at that examination are in no way less than the qualifications of the candidates who sit for the examination held for the recruitment of Upper Division Assistants. The defined duties of the Lower Division Assistants are mainly of a routine character, that is to say, they start files, diaries letters, find out the connected papers, and so on. They put the papers up to the dealing Assistants who are Upper Division ones, who in their turn put up notes on the cases to the officers concerned, and also draft correspondence for their approval. Now, this latter work is very important, and let us see what actually is the state of affairs. About 45 per cent. of the Lower Division Assistants are engaged in doing the responsible work which the Upper Division Assistants have got to do, and this is all the more true in cases of those departments in which the number of Upper Division Assistants is very limited, that is, below the ratio of 1 to 2. I may add that, generally the ratio of the Upper Division Assistants to Lower Division Assistants is 1 to 2. Now, the starting pay of the Upper Division Assistants is Rs. 125 per mensem, and this goes up to Rs. 500 per mensem, while that of the Lower Division Assistants is only Rs. 60 a month, going up to Rs. 150 a month. Of course, there is a selection grade for Lower Division Assistants from Rs. 175 to Rs. 200 a month, but this is only limited to 10 per cent. of the strength of Lower Division Assistants. Thus, you will see that it takes about 12 years to get Rs. 100 a month, and it takes about 24 years to reach the maximum pay of Rs. 150 a month. Now, we can very well understand that this is not a living wage. Well, in 1910, a Committee, which is known as the McAlpin Committee, was appointed. That Committee inquired into the pay and prospects of the Assistants of the Secretariat. The Writers' Buildings Association of Assistants pressed for a starting pay of Rs. 75 per month for Lower Division Assistants, but the McAlpin Committee did not accept the suggestion. The Committee based its decision on such things as house-rent, wholesale prices of foodstuffs and other necessaries of life. But I would submit that this was not a correct or proper procedure to follow, for the reason that a Lower Division Assistant who gets about Rs. 60 or Rs. 100 a month

does not buy his foodstuffs or any other articles at wholesale rates. As a matter of fact, nobody does—not even those who get Rs. 500 a month or Rs. 5 a month. This was in 1910, but since 1910—it is about 17 years—things have changed. The present economic conditions, as we all know, are absolutely different from what they were in 1910. Everything is very much dearer than it was 17 years ago. House-rent has gone up, educational expenses of children have gone up, the prices of foodstuffs, clothes, etc., have gone up, railway fares have gone up—indeed the cost of all necessaries of life has gone up.

I shall now try to compare the pay of Lower Division Assistants with the rates of pay prevailing in other Government offices. First of all I shall take the pay of the Lower Division Assistants of the Government of India Secretariat. The starting pay is Rs. 80 a month, and it ends at Rs. 300 a month; there is also a selection grade of Rs. 300—350 a month. The McAlpin Committee compared the pay of the two Secretariats and observed the rate of pay in the Imperial Secretariat was higher, because it was the controlling or checking authority over the provincial Governments. I submit that in view of the altered circumstances prevailing in these days, that argument does not hold good any longer. With the advent of the Reforms, the work of the Provincial Secretariat has become co-ordinate with the work of the Imperial Secretariat as regards the importance of the work done. Further, while the work of the Imperial Secretariat has diminished in complexity and importance, there has been a corresponding increase in the importance of the work in the Provincial Secretariat, the result being a parity among the two Secretariats. Therefore, the argument based on the difference in standard of the work done falls to the ground.

I shall now compare the pay of the Lower Division Assistants in the Bengal Secretariat with that of the subordinate offices of the Government of India which are located in Calcutta. Let us take the case of the office of the Auditor-General, India, and that of the Accountant-General, Bengal, which is in Calcutta. The Auditor-General's office controls the office of the Accountant-General. The degree of control exercised by the Auditor-General's office over the Provincial Accountant-General's office is much greater than the control exercised by the Imperial Secretariat over the Provincial Secretariat.

3-45 P.M.

Yet the Government of India has recently sanctioned a revised scale of pay for the clerks of the Auditor-General's office, which has become virtually the same as that of the clerks of the Accountant-General's offices. For instance, the starting pay of the Auditor-General's office is Rs. 70 and ends at Rs. 230, while the pay in the Accountant-General's office in Calcutta starts on Rs. 60 and ends at Rs. 230. Now, the case of the Lower Division Assistants of the

Imperial Secretariat and the Provincial Secretariat being parallel to that of the Auditor-General's office and the Accountant-General's offices located in the various provinces in respect of similarity of work, it may be expected that the Lower Division Assistants of the Bengal Secretariat should get the same treatment as regards pay as has been accorded to the clerks in the Accountant-General's offices. It is interesting to note here that the pay of the Accountant-General's office clerks prior to the recent revised rate was less than that of the clerks of the Bengal Secretariat. I will now state the pay in the offices of the Accountant-General, Posts and Telegraphs, and Accountant-General, Central Revenues. The pay of clerks in these two offices has been revised, and the starting pay has been made Rs. 60 and the maximum Rs. 230, and all these offices are in Calcutta.

I will now state the test for entrance into the Clerical Division of the Secretariat—I mean the Lower Division. The test for Lower Division Assistants seems very much stiffer than the test for the Accountant-General's offices in Calcutta. The clerical duties in the Secretariat are, to my mind, more onerous and complicated than the work in the Accountant-General's offices. It may be said that the work in the Accountant-General's offices is more technical and, therefore, the clerks should get more pay. It may be said, on the other hand, that clerks in the Lower Division of the Bengal Secretariat have sometimes to perform the work of Upper Division Assistants, and therefore I think this gives me an additional ground and argument to put forward to you that the pay of the Lower Division Assistants should be at least half the maximum salary of the Upper Division clerks.

From these facts I think I have made out a case for the poor Assistants of the Lower Division of the Secretariat. I fervently hope that Government will find their way to mete out a treatment to these Assistants that they really deserve. Remember, Sir, that where there is a will there is a way. The acceptance of my resolution will mean a body of happy, contented and efficient workers and better health and more help to their efficient masters.

BABU JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: I beg to move, by way of amendment, that the motion of Mr. M. Ashraf Ali Khan Chaudhuri do take the following form:—

"This Council recommends to the Government—

(*i*) that a revised time-scale of pay of Rs. 70—70—80-8-240—240—250 with a selection grade of Rs. 275—300 be sanctioned for the Lower Division assistants of the Bengal Secretariat;

(*ii*) that vacancies in the Upper Division should, as a rule and in the normal course of things, be filled by promotion from the Lower Division; and

(*iii*) that the percentage of Upper Division posts filled by such promotion should, in no case, be less than 66⅔rds per cent. of the total strength of the Upper Division."

My amendment is, practically speaking, not so much an amendment, as an enlargement of the resolution that has been moved by my friend over there. His resolution is chiefly concerned with the question of pay, but I have introduced the question of prospects also, namely, prospects of promotion to the Upper Division. I should, therefore, confine myself first of all to the question of prospects.

So far as these two divisions are concerned, I may inform the House that, before 1889, there was no division whatever in the Bengal Secretariat. This division was first introduced in the year 1889; and at that time there was a provision that 50 per cent. of the Upper Division Assistants should be recruited from the Lower Division. This bifurcation continued for four years only. In 1894 the two divisions were amalgamated, and this amalgamation lasted till 1910, when the division was again introduced. Since then, there has been a further handicap, and so far as the Lower Division clerks are concerned, only 33 per cent. of them are now eligible for promotion to the Upper Division. Considering the exiguous strength of the Upper Division, considering that the cadre is very small, this means that there is hardly any chance of promotion for Lower Division Assistants. I urge that the former system should be reverted to, that either the division into two classes should be done away with altogether, or, if Government persists in keeping up the division, then, normally and as a matter of course, vacancies in the Upper Division should be filled by promotion from the Lower Division.

As regards the question of pay, my proposal is a very modest one. At present the scale of pay is from Rs. 60 rising to Rs. 150 in the course of 25 years. What I propose is that the starting pay should be Rs. 70, rising to Rs. 250 in the course of 25 years' service. So far as this suggestion is concerned, I am fortified by what has been done in the Simla Secretariat. In the Simla Secretariat, the Lower Division Assistants receive pay starting from Rs. 80 and rising to Rs. 300. Their qualifications are absolutely the same, and the nature of work performed is also absolutely the same, but the scale of pay is very different and much higher. Of course, I shall be told that the Simla Secretariat has a higher status. Most probably that is so; but the question of higher status cuts both ways. For instance, so far as the

Auditor-General's office is concerned, it stands in much the same relation to the various Accountant-General's offices as the Imperial Secretariat stands to the Bengal Secretariat; and yet the clerks of the Auditor-General's office receive the same scale of pay as the clerks in the Accountant-General's offices.

So far as the question of status is concerned, there is another point to be considered. If it be granted that the Simla Secretariat has a higher status, it must be conceded at the same time that the Bengal Secretariat has a higher status than the various Accountant-General's offices, because these are in fact only offices of heads of departments. Let us see what pay the clerks in the Accountant-General's offices get. They start on a salary of Rs. 60 and gradually go up to Rs. 230, whereas the Secretariat clerks start on Rs. 60, but stop at Rs. 150. I beg that this anomaly should be removed, and considering that the qualifications of the Assistants and the nature of the work in the Bengal Secretariat are the same as in the Imperial Secretariat, the clerks in the former should be placed as much as possible on the same level with the latter. My proposal is for a scale ranging from Rs. 70 to Rs. 250. Nor will it mean any extravagant additional expenditure on the part of Government. The present average cost is Rs. 99; but if my amendment is accepted, the average cost will be about Rs. 148, so that, considering the total strength of the Lower Division Assistants, the ultimate annual cost to Government will amount to something like a lakh of rupees. But even that will not take place within the next ten years, and the additional cost to which Government will be committed in the immediate present will not exceed Rs. 10,000. Considering the modest scale proposed by me and considering also the useful services rendered by these people, I hope Government will not oppose my amendment, but will accept it.

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: I am afraid I must oppose this resolution, and also the amendment proposed by my friend Babu Jitendralal Bannerjee. The mover of the resolution referred to a Committee of 1910 and to the conditions that prevailed then, but he omitted to mention to the House that the whole position was reviewed in 1921 by the Ministerial Officers Salary Committee over which Mr. McAlpin presided. I should like to quote a small portion of the paragraph in which this part of the Secretariat was dealt with in that report:—

"The pay of the whole establishment of the Secretariat was revised in the year 1910; that of the Lower Division was changed in the year 1919, and a time-scale introduced. Our proposals for the present revision of pay are based on the rates in existence before 1919, as the main object of the revision of that year was the improvement of the pay of the Lower Division for the benefit of the existing incumbents who had memorialised Government on account of the increase in prices."

Then they went on to suggest a scale. On their arguments, the existing scale has been adopted, namely, a probationary period of two years on Rs. 60; then confirmation on Rs. 65, rising to Rs. 150, with a selection grade at Rs. 175, rising to Rs. 200 for clerks of special merit, limited to 10 per cent. of the Lower Division in each department, who have been at least three years on the maximum of the time-scale. That is the present position, and that scale was fixed in 1921 and was based on the prices prevailing in 1919. Conditions since then, so far as the cost of living is concerned, have improved, and I think this will be admitted by all. The cost of living has certainly decreased since 1919, 1920 and 1921. Therefore, there is no ground, as far as I can see—considering the cost of living—for increasing the time-scale pay then arrived at. Apart from that, I can see no other justification whatsoever for paying clerks, whose work is largely routine, more than they are getting now.

The mover of the resolution said that a certain number of clerks in the Lower Division are doing the work of Upper Division clerks. That is true to a certain extent. These are clerks of special merit who can look forward to promotion to the Upper Division. As a general rule, clerks in the Lower Division, who remain in the Lower Division, do mostly routine work, and for such work it appears to me that a scale of pay starting from Rs. 65 and rising to a maximum of Rs. 150, with a chance of getting into a selection grade, is quite sufficient. Comparisons have been made by the hon'ble mover and by Babu Jitendralal Bannerjee between the scale of pay in the Bengal Secretariat and the Government of India offices and the Accountant-General's office.

4 P.M.

Now, it is true that the clerks in the Accountant-General's office in Calcutta are on a scale somewhat similar to that proposed by these resolutions, but, to my mind, a comparison with such an office is beside the point, because the nature of the work done is altogether different, and different qualifications are required of the clerks there. Apart from that, however, the Government of India can apparently afford to give high salaries to their clerks in Calcutta, but, in our opinion, their rates are extravagant, and there is no necessity whatsoever for the local Government to follow the Government of India slavishly in a question like this. From the point of view of their finances, the Government of Bengal simply cannot afford the extra expense. Ten days hence, when the budget comes to be presented, you will find that as our finances stand at present, we can afford no new expenditure whatsoever. When we are giving a scale which, in our opinion, is an adequate scale, I see no justification for increasing

it. I may add that on the present pay the service is still attractive, as is shown by the large number of competitors for entering it.

As regards the second and third portions of Babu Jitendralal Bannerjee's amendments, these proposals would make a fundamental difference in the status between the Upper and Lower Divisions and would practically make the Upper Division merely a superior scale of the Lower Division. These two divisions are two different services, recruitment to them being effected normally by examination of very different standards. This rule has been relaxed to the extent of a maximum of 33 1/3rd per cent. of the Upper Division posts to serve as a prize for outstanding merit in the Lower Division. The standards required for the two divisions, however, are far apart, and mere aptitude for office routine is not a sufficient qualification for Upper Division work. The present obligatory proportion of one-third gives to the deserving Lower Division Assistant his opportunity of winning promotion to the Upper Division, and to increase this proportion further would not be a step in the advancement of efficiency in the Secretariat. There is no ground, therefore, for increasing the scale of pay and thereby causing unnecessary cost to Government, which cannot afford any extra expenditure.

Mr. W. L. TRAVERS: May I ask the Hon'ble Member if he can give us any idea as to what increased expenditure the adoption of either of the proposals would mean?

The Hon'ble Mr. A. MARR: No, Sir, I have not worked out the figures, but Babu Jitendralal Bannerjee tells us that it would mean, ultimately, an increased expenditure of about a lakh of rupees and, as I have said, we cannot possibly afford any extra new expenditure at present.

Mr. M. ASHRAF ALI KHAN CHAUDHURI: The question that I have got to answer now is what the Hon'ble Member has just now referred to in his reply, and that is this, that the Government of India are extravagant. Well, they may be extravagant or they may not be extravagant, but this much is certain, that the Assistants of the offices which are controlled by the Government of India are getting pay which is much more than what the Assistants of the Lower Division of the Bengal Secretariat are getting. This is a matter of fact. Now, the Hon'ble Member has admitted the fact that a certain number of clerks of the Lower Division do the work of the Upper Division clerks. We might have understood if a reasonable number of them had been working like that, but when we find that about half of them are working like that, what inference are we to draw? The only inference that I can draw is this, that unless they were competent enough to do the work, they would not have been allowed to do that

sort of work; or, if the posts in the Upper Division had been increased, they would not have been allowed to do that work. It is, therefore, clear that it is absolutely necessary to increase the posts in the Upper Division, but instead of doing so, you are saving that much of money by making the Lower Division clerks do that work without paying for it. You are getting as efficient work from them as you do from the Upper Division clerks.

Now, as regards the fact that the service is still attractive, I can say that every service will be entered into, no matter what pay you give. Take, for instance, the case of Deputy Magistrates—if I may be allowed to say without any disrespect to the service—they will enter the service even if you give them a pay, say, of Rs. 100. Now-a-days people have got to make their own living; but what sort of living they will make on that pay is the question. Will you get efficient work from them, and will they be able to make both ends meet? If they cannot, then you will be the sufferer, and you should look to that. This question naturally resolves itself into the question of supply and demand; but so far as human beings are concerned, this question does not arise, as it is not an article of commodity which you can buy in the bazar. You have got to keep them up, you have got to feed them, you have got to get efficient work from them. I have already said that you are getting more work for less pay. As far as the cost is concerned, I think it will be not more than Rs. 31 per head on an average.

4-15 P.M.

The motion of Babu Jitendralal Bannerjee was then put and a division taken, with the following result:—

AYES.

Banerjee, Babu Promotha Nath.	Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur-.
Bannerjee, Babu Jitendralal.	Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Kasem, Maulvi Abul.	Shah, Mr. Gholam Hossain.

NOES.

Afzal, Maulvi Syed Muhammad.	Eddis, Mr. A. McD.
Ahamad, Maulvi Kasiruddin.	Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.
Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.	Ghose, Mr. M. C.
Atiquileh, Mr. Syed Md.	Gofran, Maulvi Abdul.
Barton, Mr. J. F.	Guha, Mr. F. N.
Cassells, Mr. A.	Hosain, the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruf, Khan Bahadur.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari.	Hussain, Maulvi Latafat.
Choudhury, Maulvi Khorshed Alam.	James, Mr. F. E.
Cohen, Mr. B. J.	Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin.
Cooper, Mr. C. G.	Lindsay, Mr. J. H.
Dey, Mr. B. C.	MacBean, Mr. J. A.
Dowding, Mr. T. W.	Marr, the Hon'ble Mr. A.
Drummond, Mr. J. G.	McCluskie, Mr. E. T.
Dutt, Mr. G. S.	Mitter, the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder.
	Moberly, the Hon'ble Mr. A. N.

Nelson, Mr. W. H.
Parrett, Mr. P.
Phelps, Mr. Trevor J.
Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Rahman, Maulvi Azizur.
Rahman, Maulvi Shamsur-.
Rahman, Mr. A. F.
Raikat, Mr. Presanna Deb.
Rauf, Maulvi Syed Abdur.
Ray, the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra, of Nadia.
Reid, Mr. R. N.
Ray, Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Sachse, Mr. F. A.
Sarbadhikari, Dr. Sir Deva Prasad.
Sarker, Rai Sahib Rebati Mahan.
Sattar, Khan Sahib Abdus.
Sattar, Mr. Abdeol Razak Hajee Abdeol.
Sinha, Raja Bahadur Bhupendra Narayan, of Nashipur.
Skinner, Mr. S. A.
Solaiman, Maulvi Muhammad.
Stuart-Williams, Mr. S. C.
Tate, Major-General Godfrey.
Thompson, Mr. W. H.
Travers, Mr. W. L.
Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 6 and the Noes 54, the motion was lost.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: On a point of order, Sir, may I call your attention to the procedure adopted by one of the members, so far as this amendment is concerned? He did not move the amendment; I moved it, and did not call for a division. He called for a division, and did not vote either way.

Mr. PRESIDENT: When a member calls for a division, the President has to grant it. But I think you are perfectly right in saying that it is unfair on the part of a member not to vote when he calls for a division.

Mr. M. ASHRAF ALI KHAN CHAUDHURI: On a point of personal explanation, Sir, I found afterwards that it was my mistake to call for a division on the amendment, and I pointed that out to you.

The motion of Mr. M. Ashraf Ali Khan Chaudhuri was then put and a division taken, with the following result:—

AYES.

Acharjya Chaudhuri, Maharaja Shashi Kanta, of Muktagacha, Mymensingh.
Afzal, Maulvi Syed Muhammad.
Ahamad, Maulvi Kasiruddin.
Atiqullah, Mr. Syed Md.
Baksh, Maulvi Kadar.
Banerjee, Babu Promotha Nath.
Bannerjee, Babu Jitendralal.
Choudhury, Maulvi Golam Mawla.
Choudhury, Maulvi Khorshed Alam.
Farequi, Khan Bahadur K. G. M.
Ghosh Maulik, Babu Satyendra Chandra.
Gofran, Maulvi Abdul.
Hasan, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Syed Maqbul.
Hussain, Maulvi Latafat.
Karim, Maulvi Abdul.
Kasem, Maulvi Abul.
Khan Chaudhuri, Mr. M. Ashraf Ali.
Khan, Khan Sahib Maulvi Muzzzam Ali.
Khan, Maulvi Tamizuddin.
Khan, Mr. Razaur Rahman.
Nandy, Maharaj Kumar Sris Chandra.
Rahman, Maulvi Azizur.
Rahman, Maulvi Shamsur-.
Rahman, Mr. A. F.
Rahman, Mr. A. F. M. Abdur-.
Raikat, Mr. Presanna Deb.
Rauf, Maulvi Syed Abdur.
Ray, Babu Surendra Nath.
Sattar, Mr. Abdeol Razak Hajee Abdeol.
Shah, Mr. Gholam Hossain.
Sinha, Raja Bahadur Bhupendra Narayan, of Nashipur.
Solaiman, Maulvi Muhammad.
Suhrawardy, Mr. H. S.

NOES.

Ahmed, Khan Bahadur Maulvi Emaduddin.	McCluskie, Mr. E. T.
Barton, Mr. J. F.	Mitter, the Hon'ble Sir Provash Chunder.
Cassells, Mr. A.	Moberly, the Hon'ble Mr. A. N.
Chaudhuri, the Hon'ble Nawab Bahadur Saiyid Nawab Ali, Khan Bahadur, of Dhanbari.	Nelson, Mr. W. H.
	Parrott, Mr. P.
	Phelps, Mr. Trover J.
Cohen, Mr. G. J.	Prentice, Mr. W. D. R.
Cooper, Mr. C. G.	Ray, the Hon'ble Maharaja Bahadur Kshaunish Chandra, of Nadia.
Dey, Mr. G. G.	
Drummond, Mr. J. G.	Reid, Mr. R. N.
Dutt, Mr. G. S.	Roy, Mr. Bijoy Prasad Singh.
Eddis, Mr. A. McD.	Sachse, Mr. F. A.
Forrester, Mr. J. Campbell.	Sarker, Rai Sahib Rebati Mohan.
Guha, Mr. P. N.	Sattar, Khan Sahib Abdus.
Hosain, the Hon'ble Nawab Musharruf, Khan Bahadur.	Skinner, Mr. S. A.
	Stuart-Williams, Mr. S. C.
James, Mr. F. E.	Tate, Major-General Godfrey.
Lindsay, Mr. J. H.	Thompson, Mr. W. H.
MacBean, Mr. J. A.	Travers, Mr. W. L.
Marr, the Hon'ble Mr. A.	Wordsworth, Mr. W. C.

The Ayes being 33 and the Noes 36, the motion was lost.

[At 4-30 P.M. the Council was adjourned, and it re-assembled at 4-45 P.M.]

The following motion was called but not moved and, therefore, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu AMULYA CHANDRA DATTA: "This Council recommends to the Government that a grant of a sum of Rs. 50,000 be made to the Hooghly-Chinsura Municipality for the repair, extension and improvement of the water-works of that municipality."

Amendment of the Rules for the Recruitment of the Executive Branch of the Bengal Civil Service.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, with your permission, I beg to move, in the absence of Babu Mahendra Nath Maiti the resolution which stands in his name.

I move that this Council recommends to the Government that the rules for the recruitment of the Executive Branch of the Bengal Civil Service be amended in the following manner:—

(*i*) that the provision that a Sub-Deputy Collector nominated for promotion to the Bengal Civil Service should not ordinarily exceed 40 years of age be permanently done away with;

(*ii*) the present system of promotion which includes the following procedure be abolished altogether:—

(*1*) *first*, nomination by District Officers,

(*2*) *secondly*, selection by the Divisional Commissioner of two candidates out of the whole number nominated by all Collectors of his division,

(*3*) *thirdly*, selection by the Board of Revenue of some nominees out of the number nominated by the five Commissioners and by other departments, and

(*4*) *fourthly*, final selection by the Governor in Council from the number nominated by the Board of Revenue;

(*iii*) that provision be made to the effect that promotion of a Sub-Deputy Collector to the Bengal Civil Service should be made according to seniority alone and directly by Government."

In moving this resolution, I only want to say a few words. It seems to me that the position of the Sub-Deputy Collector is a very anomalous one. The Sub-Deputy Collectors and Deputy Collectors are recruited from the same class of people. So far as University qualifications are concerned, there is no difference whatever, and in other respects also there is hardly any difference. If there is any difference, it is only in the qualification of official backing or, in other words, in the great qualification of being the sons or sons-in-law of a well-known class of people. The Sub-Deputy Collectors from the beginning of their service smart under grievance. They labour under a disadvantage which does not seem to be right. So far as the purpose of this resolution is concerned, it is only to remove the difficulties that stand in the way of their promotion. The Sub-Deputy Collector, in order to be promoted to the higher service, has to satisfy certain tests. First of all, he must not be above 40 years of age, and, secondly, he has to undergo a very curious process of filtration and purification without which he cannot enter the higher service. The purpose of the resolution is only to remove this difficulty, so that these men, who are as qualified as the Deputy Collectors, may have their grievances for promotion remedied.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: I rise to support the motion which has been placed before the House. The question of pay and prospects and promotion of Sub-Deputy Collectors has been engaging the attention of Government for many years now. But up till now no satisfactory solution has been arrived at. The Sub-Deputy Collectors are recruited in the same manner as Deputy Collectors, or members of the Bengal Civil Service as they are now called. Their educational qualification is the same, their status in life is the same, and what is more they perform the same duties. But, unfortunately, owing to bad luck, they have a lower status in service, and they get a lower scale of pay. This resolution wants to do away with the present system of promotion. The mover has brought to notice a certain anomaly in the present process. I want to draw the attention of the House and of the Government to one more anomaly. As at present arranged, the initiative for promotion comes from the Collector. The Commissioner then considers the recommendations from various Collectors and, finally, the question comes up before Government. It so happens—and it is not a rare case—that in one particular division there are two or three very able and senior Sub-Deputy

Collectors, whereas in another division the Sub-Deputy Collectors do not come up to the required standard of promotion. Under the present arrangement the Commissioner cannot recommend more than two officers for promotion. In a particular district, there may be more than two Sub-Deputy Collectors fit for promotion, and it happens that they have got to wait and, in the meantime, they pass the age-limit, and so there is no promotion for them! Sir, in the matter of promotion, I think the Collector should have the initiative. They know the work of each of the officers, and then the Government who have got the service-books of these officers should choose from among them fit persons for promotion, irrespective of the divisions in which they are employed. The resolution says that promotion should be made on seniority alone. But I do not agree with that. Seniority in the matter of promotion should not be the only criterion. There are other things to be considered—meritorious service and seniority next. I believe there will be no grievance if the Government collect all the reports of all the officers and then choose the proper men for promotion. Under the present arrangement, there have been cases where very able Sub-Deputy Collectors, strongly recommended by Commissioners, have not succeeded in getting promotion. In these circumstances, I submit that the resolution ought to be accepted by Government, if not in its entirety, at least substantially. I think that the grievance of the Sub-Deputy Collectors in the matter of promotion is a just one. I also think that no distinction should be made at the time of recruitment between the Provincial and the Subordinate Services.

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: I wish to add one word of testimony in favour of the Sub-Deputy Collectors. A better deserving and worse treated class of men than these Sub-Deputy Collectors is impossible to conceive of. As has been pointed out by previous speakers, the social status of these Sub-Deputy Collectors is much the same as that of Deputy Collectors, their educational qualifications are the same, sometimes much better, and they perform the same sort of work, and yet there is an enormous difference between their respective pay and prospects. Their grievances ought to be remedied. I do not exactly know how this is to be done, but Government ought to devise means by which their legitimate claims can be taken into full consideration. One way in which it can be done is by abolishing the age-bar of 40 years for promotion. Under the present arrangement, as soon as a Sub-Deputy Collector passes his 40th year, he is debarred from promotion. A more arbitrary arrangement it would be impossible to conceive of, and it should be abolished as quickly as possible.

Khan Bahadur Maulvi AZIZUL HAQUE: Sir, I had no intention to take part in the debate in connection with this resolution. But I think I should submit one or two remarks in this connection. I

do not understand why there should be an age-limit in the case of Sub-Deputy Collectors in regard to their promotion. When a Deputy Magistrate is promoted to the District Magistracy, he is often invalid. When a member of the Bengal Judicial Service is promoted to a District Judgship, he is often at the end of his term. I do not know exactly whether members of the Indian Civil Service are debarred from promotion after they have passed their 40th year. If there is no such rule, any where, I do not see any reason why there should be this distinction in the case of junior service. There is a very strong feeling regarding the case of the Sub-Deputy Collectors. Many of us consider that they are not fairly treated in this matter. I think, under the present system of recruitment, the Sub-Deputy Collectors are chosen as a result of the same examination which the Deputy Magistrates have to pass—only the men at the top of the list are appointed as Deputy Magistrates and men lower down in the list are appointed in the junior service. Whatever that may be, Sub-Deputy Collectors have proved themselves to be valuable officers in the higher services after promotion. I can cite several instances. I am not sure, however, whether our purpose will be met by a resolution of this kind. But at the same time we want an assurance from the Hon'ble Member in charge that this matter will receive due consideration at his hands, and that as quickly as possible. I also think that the question of promotion should be considered as a whole, for the entire province, and not division by division and that the age-limit should be immediately done away with. With these words, I support the resolution.

5 P.M.

MEMBER in charge of APPOINTMENT DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. MOBERLY): I do not propose to go into the main question regarding the pay and prospects of the Bengal Junior Civil Service. It is a very large question, indeed, and it forms no part of this resolution. The resolution actually deals with three specific points. I had the pleasure last November of meeting a deputation from the Bengal Junior Civil Service, and we discussed various questions. There were certain questions which I was unable to go into at all, and there were others which I said should be considered. Among the questions which we decided should be considered was this question of doing away with the age bar. The age bar has been in force ever since the present system of promotion was introduced. I need not go deeply into the history of this question, but I think there is a good deal to be said against this hard-and-fast rule. At the same time, these questions of recruitment come under rules framed under the Government of India Act, and any alteration has to be considered by Government as a whole. All, therefore, that I can say at present as regards the age bar is that I think that there is a

good deal to be said in favour of its abolition, and an early opportunity will be taken to lay the whole question before Government as a whole.

As regards the second part of the resolution, I agree that Maulvi Abul Kasem has made out a good case against the existing arrangements. The service also, I know, feel that the present arrangement is not ideal. I accordingly asked them to formulate their ideas as to the system of promotion which should be followed. I have recently received their suggestions and their letter and the proposals of my department will also be laid before Government as a whole. I may state that the proposals of the Bengal Junior Civil Service themselves do not tally with the third part of this resolution. Maulvi Abul Kasem himself does not agree with it, and I may say at once that I must oppose any proposal for promotion by seniority alone. I hope that after what I have said, the mover will perhaps withdraw his resolution. If he does not, I must oppose it—first, because I am not entitled to speak for Government as a whole, and, secondly, because I must strongly oppose the third part of the resolution.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: After what has fallen from the Hon'ble Mr. Moberly, I beg to withdraw the motion.

The motion of Maulvi Tamizuddin Khan was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motions were called but not moved and were, therefore, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Kazi EMDADUL HOQUE: "This Council recommends to the Government that any Assistant in the Lower Division of the Bengal Secretariat Clerical Service, who has drawn the maximum pay of that scale for three years, but has no chance of his promotion to the Upper Division, be allowed to draw the selection grade pay of the Lower Division."

Raja BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA Bahadur, of Nashipur: "This Council recommends to the Government that the cesses assessable under the Bengal Cess Act on the annual value of lands should be assessed and levied at a graduated scale of rates, beginning with half the rate as laid down in section 6 of the said Act, leading up to the maximum rate provided in the same section of the Act, to the time when the next revaluation takes place in such district or districts where the settlement operation is over or will be over shortly and the revaluation of the land has been or will be done with reference to the record-of-rights."

Mr. K. C. RAY CHAUDHURI: "This Council recommends to the Government that in place of the existing scale of pay of Rs. 45—5/2—100, a time-scale of pay of Rs. 50—3—125 and of Rs. 125—5—150 be given to the typists and Superintendents of the Typing Section, respectively, of the Bengal Secretariat, with effect from the 1st April, 1927."

Mr. A. F. M. ABDUR RAHMAN to move, by way of amendment, that the motion of Mr. K. C. Ray Chaudhuri do take the following form:—

"This Council recommends to Government that in place of the existing scale of pay of Rs. 45—5/2—100, a time-scale of pay of Rs. 60—5—160, with a selection grade of Rs. 160—8—200, be given to the typists of the Bengal Secretariat, with effect from the 1st April next, with an allowance of 25 per cent., for the senior typists doing the compairing work."

Raja BHUPENDRA NARAYAN SINHA Bahadur, of Nashipur: "This Council recommends to the Government that henceforth no deductions be made with regard to the establishment charge of keeping accounts, etc., of the Road and Public Works Cesses as specified in Rule 142 of the Cess Manual, 1919, and that the total collection of the said Road and Public Works Cesses be paid to the District Board Fund without any deduction whatsoever"

Extension of the operation of the Bengal Public Cambling Act to certain places.

Maulvi ABDUL KARIM: I beg to move that this Council recommends to the Government to extend the operation of the Bengal Public Gambling Act, 1867 (Bengal Act II of 1867), as subsequently amended, to all places in Bengal where gambling takes place at the time of *melas* and on other occasions, and where the said Gambling Act is not in force.

I think, Sir, this is a resolution that does not require many arguments to commend it to this House. Last year a representation on the subject was made to me by some of my constituents. There is a place named Bamhun in the district of Howrah, where every year in the month of January a *mela* is held in connection with the death anniversary of a Moslem saint who lies buried there. It is very largely attended by people from the surrounding villages. The occasion is availed of by some villains to cheat the simple village-folk who assemble there. Gambling booths are opened to which the visitors are attracted. They are prevailed upon to join in gambling, and those reluctant to do so are bullied by the rowdies engaged for the purpose. They gamble away not only all the money they bring with them, but sometimes even some of their clothes! A good deal of misery is thus caused, and the peace of the sacred place is disturbed.

Shortly after my election to this Council, some of the inhabitants of the place approached me with a request to see if gambling could be stopped. Under the impression that the Bengal Public Gambling Act was in force there, I addressed the Subdivisional Officer of Uluberia, in whose jurisdiction Banibun is situated, requesting him to take the necessary action. In reply, he wrote to me as follows:—

"I have taken steps to prevent any breach of the peace connected with gambling. I would point out that the Gambling Act is not in force at the place mentioned by you. I wish the Act could be extended at least to those places where gambling at times takes place, and where supervision can be exercised by Courts."

Subsequent inquiries convinced me that gambling takes place on occasions, such as that referred to, in many places all over Bengal. I am sure the members who come from the mufassal will bear me out in this. In these circumstances, I have thought it proper to bring forward this resolution, and I hope and trust that it will be strongly supported by the hon'ble members of this House.

Mr. BIJOY PRASAD SINGH ROY: Sir, it is with the greatest pleasure that I rise to welcome the resolution which has been so ably moved by Maulvi Abdul Karim. Sir, this Act was passed as far back as 1867. Since then it has undergone several amendments, but still a very large area of Bengal is excluded from its operation. Everyone familiar with the state of affairs in the mufassal will agree with me that it is absolutely necessary that some measure should be introduced to save illiterate and poor people from wasting their money on gambling. These people are often literally robbed by unscrupulous gamblers. Sir, I am told that the state of affairs in East Bengal is simply shocking, especially after the jute season, when the agriculturists get some money. They go in for gambling and waste what little they receive. Sir, there are several other Acts, besides the Bengal Public Gambling Act of 1867, to meet the exigencies of the situation. There is the Howrah Offences Act, and there are also certain provisions in the Calcutta Police Act to check gambling. But I would suggest that the Government should try to make a consolidated Act, incorporating all the provisions of the various Acts in one Bill.

Sir, this Act was passed long ago, and I think the situation has undergone a complete change during all these years, and it is only proper that the Government should at an early date take up this matter and save the poor and ignorant agriculturists from sure ruin.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: I want to say, Sir, only a few words in support of this motion. These months of January and February are the months in which *melas* are held all over the province; and this

year I happened to be in my native village when the *mela* was on, and I found that in a small village (with a population of only 4,000 people) there were as many as 26 gaming tables in the *mela*. I wanted to turn these men out, but my people came forward and said that it would be an unwise act, as the proprietors, or the bankers if I may say so, of these tables were the biggest contributors to the *mela* fund. But all the same, with some difficulty, I managed to turn them out. As my friend Maulvi Abdul Karim has said, I have seen boys and even elderly men come to the gaming table, lose everything they had, and go back home and sell ornaments. In some cases they even go so far as to sell household utensils, simply to gratify their intoxication for gambling. I hope, Sir, this resolution will be accepted by Government, and what is more I trust that whatever legislative measures Government want to bring before this House will be done without delay. And we on our part, Sir, can assure Government of our whole-hearted support in that measure.

Maulvi TAMIZUDDIN KHAN: Sir, I rise to support this motion. I would only say that the motion ought to have gone further. It only purports to recommend that the operations of the Bengal Public Gambling Act should be extended to those places where gambling takes place. Sir, if an inquiry is made, I think, it will be found that gambling takes place now-a-days almost everywhere in Bengal. As a member coming from the mufassal, I can assure this House that I have seen gambling going on almost daily, not only in *melas*, but even in *hats* and *bazars*. It is this evil of gambling which is spreading like an epidemic throughout the whole province of Bengal, and it is high time that Government should take adequate action to check the evil. I do not know if the extension of the operation of the Act will be effective enough to put a stop to the evil, but I think it will go a great way in fighting and removing the evil. So, I think, the operation of this Act should be extended not only to certain places, but to the whole of Bengal, which is affected by the evil

MEMBER in charge of POLICE DEPARTMENT (the Hon'ble Mr. A. N. Moberly): I am not yet convinced that the existing Act is inadequate, though it certainly does not give us power to extend it to the whole of Bengal. The question, however, is partly one of policy. The policy which Government followed until very recently was to extend the Act only to places where gambling is especially prevalent and mischievous and which are within a reasonable distance of established courts, and not to outlying villages where its working cannot be effectively supervised or controlled.

5-15 P.M.

The idea was that it would place great powers of blackmail in the hands of certain persons if we extended the Act to far distant

villages, and it might also cause great hardship to witnesses to have to go to distant courts. Conditions have changed and communications are now better, and proposals have been received from various places for a wider extension of the Act. Accordingly, in 1926, Government consulted the Commissioners as to whether they recommended the extension of the Act, whether the extensions recently made had proved effective, and whether they considered that the evils which it was sought to control by the Act were really greater than the evils which might be caused by the lack of supervision and the considerable inconvenience caused to witnesses in coming to distant courts. After considering the replies, the Government of Bengal decided last October that the policy then existing should be modified, and that the Act should be extended more freely than before. Government are now prepared to extend the Act to municipalities and other urban areas where the local officers are satisfied that gambling is prevalent and there is a public demand for the extension of the Act to check the existing evil.

As regards rural areas, as I pointed out just now, we cannot extend the Act wholesale to large tracts such as an entire subdivision or thana, or even a union board area, as such, because we can hardly call a subdivision a "place" or a union a "place," but Government will be prepared to extend the Act freely to places in which there are periodical *hâts*, *bazars*, *melas* and similar gatherings which afford regular facilities for gambling, provided that the local authorities report, after proper inquiry, that there is a genuine demand for the extension of the Act, and that gambling already exists in the area to which its extension is proposed. The criterion that the place, to which it is proposed to extend the Act, must be in the vicinity of an established court, will not be insisted upon in future, provided that the Government are satisfied that the local officers, in the course of their inquiries, have pointed out to the local people that if the Act is extended, cases thereunder will ordinarily be tried at the subdivisional or district headquarters and have ascertained that they are prepared to attend the courts to give evidence until the evil is suppressed. If there is a real public demand for its suppression, the public will not object to undergoing the trouble of giving evidence in cases under the Act. If the local officers, however, find that there is a definite disinclination on the part of the public to go to headquarters or elsewhere, they will be justified in not recommending the extension of the Act, unless the evil is so serious that the Act must be extended and the attendance of witnesses enforced.

The thing really has now come to this: We are giving local option to the inhabitants of places where gambling is prevalent. If the local people really desire that gambling should be suppressed, if they are prepared to give evidence even at some inconvenience to

themselves, and if the local officers find that there is really gambling, we will extend the Act to those areas; otherwise, we will not extend the Act wholesale. I do not propose to oppose this motion; on the other hand, I am not prepared to accept it, because I want the principle of local option to come in.

Maulvi ABDUL KARIM: I am glad that Mr. Moberly has seen his way to giving this assurance. The limitations and restrictions mentioned by him are not quite desirable, but I hope that in course of time, after putting forth this Act into operation, they will see their way to modify these limitations and restrictions. I beg leave of the House to withdraw my motion.

The motion of Maulvi Abdul Karim was then, by leave of the Council, withdrawn.

The following motion was called but not moved and was, therefore, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Rai SATYENDRA NATH ROY CHOUDHURI Bahadur: "This Council recommends to the Government that steps be taken immediately to introduce a Bill to amend the Revenue Sale Law of Bengal (Act XI of 1859), so as to make provision for setting aside the sale as provided in section 174 of the Bengal Tenancy Act (VIII of 1885), Rule 89, in Order 21 of the First Schedule to the Code of Civil Procedure, 1908 (Act V of 1908), or section 22 of the Bengal Public Demands Recovery Act, 1913 (Bengal Act III of 1913)."

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: With your permission, Mr. President, I should like not to move the resolution that stands in my name. I find that my party are not quite conspicuous by their presence. Perhaps they do not desire to express their indignation. Presumably, they are satisfied with the constitution of the Commission.

The following motions were called but not moved and were, therefore, deemed to be withdrawn:—

Babu JITENDRALAL BANNERJEE: "This Council recommends to the Government that necessary steps be taken to convey to His Excellency the Viceroy and His Majesty's Government this Council's sense of deep and bitter indignation at the total exclusion of Indians from the Statutory Commission appointed to inquire into and report upon the working of the Indian constitution."

Maulvi SHAMSUR-RAHMAN: "This Council recommends to the Government that the pay of the Bengal Police constables be increased and raised from Rs. 25 to Rs. 35 with a biennial increment of Re. 1."

Babu SASI SEKHAR BASU: "This Council recommends to the Government that a Committee of five members with a non-official majority be formed to inquire into the allegations publicly made by Mr. Jogendra Nath Sarkar, M.A., B.L., late Vice-Chairman of the Nadia District Board, against the conduct of Mr. J. N. Gupta, the then Commissioner, Presidency Division, Mr. Charu Chandra Gupta, the then Sadar Subdivisional Officer, Nadia, and Mr. Srimanta Das Gupta, the then Subdivisional Officer, Chaudanga, interfering and exercising undue influence in the matter of the election of the Chairman of the Nadia District Board held on the 6th of August, 1926."

Relief works for places threatened with Famine.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: As Babu Romes Chandra Bagchi in whose name this resolution stands is absent, may I have your permission to move it, Sir?

Mr. PRESIDENT: Yes, you have my permission.

Maulvi ABUL KASEM: I beg to move that this Council recommends to the Government that adequate relief works be at once started and other sufficient measures be taken to relieve the distress of the people of the district of Malda, as well as other districts of Northern and Western Bengal, threatened with impending famine, owing to the total failure of the winter paddy crop this year.

Adjournment.

There being no quorum present, the Council was adjourned at 5-30 P.M. till 3 P.M. on Monday, the 20th February, 1928, at the Town Hall, Calcutta.

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TO

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(Official Report.)

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